

Abstract

Stapes Surgery in Sweden – Evaluation of a National Based Register

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The “National Otosclerosis Surgery Register” is one of nine officially national registers for Ear Nose and Throat diseases in Sweden. Since 2004 surgical and audiological results are systematically collected from every ENT-Clinic reporting stapes surgery and fed into this register. This register is used as a tool for developing the quality of stapes surgery. The database comprises three documents and one questionnaire and results were fed into a computed based follow up-register, preoperatively and one year after surgery.

Results of 1710 patients were evaluated from 24 out of 26 clinics. The most common surgical technique reported was stapedotomy (97 %) and a majority of the patients (65%) were out-patient. Over 93 % experienced an increasing hearing function and 92 % of the patients were satisfied with the preoperative counselling. Hearing sensitivity measured as PTA₄ air conduction (AC) was improved > 20 dB in 67 % and bone conduction (BC) was improved or not worsened by more than 5 dB in 95 % of the patients. In 68% air-bone gap (ABG) were < 10 dB HL, while 96% were < 20 dB HL. An over-all low incidence of postoperative complications was reported.

Evaluation of results from “The National Otosclerosis Surgery Register” in Sweden, covering 80% of reported stapes surgery in Sweden, revealed that stapes surgery is a safe procedure with good hearing, low complication rates and a high rate of patient satisfaction.