INTRODUCTION

Dacryocystitis is an inflammation of the lacrimal sac and may be acute or chronic, both types may be the sequel to obstruction of the nasolacrimal duct or in the sac itself.

Infection of the lacrimal sac is a common (either acute or chronic) disease which usually occurs in infants or in persons over 40 years, it is uncommon in the intermediate age groups.

Chronic dacryocystitis is the more common. It is most often unilateral, and is always secondary to obstruction of the nasolacrimal duct. In many adult cases the etiology of the obstruction remains unknown, but there may be a history of severe trauma to the nose. Acute cases are often preceded by chronic dacryocystitis, some cases are preceded by chronic conjunctivitis (e.g., Trachoma). The swelling sometimes increases to considerable size, becoming a large tumour of a curious bluish translucency over which the skin remains free, but at the same time the stoppage of the discharge tends to lessen the epiphora and the conjunctival irritation.
As for treatment of Dacryocystitis is concerned
D.C.T. was the first operation in which inflamed disease
sac was removed leading to constant watering, which was
replaced by D.C.R. in which sac was connected with nasal
mucoea. Although it is still are of the good method but
lot of time and skill is required.

Recently Intracystic Implants has been tried
with good results. It has advantage, firstly it can be
done as an O.U.D. procedure. No other problem of bleeding
or hospitalization is less.

Chronic dacryocystitis is commonly attributed
to the effects of stricture of the nasal duct arising from
chronic inflammation, usually of nasal origin. Obstruction
to the lower end of the nasal duct may be caused by the
pressure of nasal polyp, a hypertrophied inferior
turbinate bone, extreme deviation of the septum.

Apart from this conventional method of D.C.R.,
a modified technique of D.C.R. has been developed.

D.C.R. is a time consuming process but as a
modified technique polythene intubation was started by
Summerhill. Intubation being a simpler process was tried
in 100 cases of chronic dacryocystitis and patency of
nasolacrimal duct was found in 93 cases. Silicone
intubation is a safe and effective method for relief.
The purpose of intubation of either a part or the full length of the lacrimal passages by either flexible silicone or more rigid acrylic tube is -

(1) to overcome a stricture by prolonged constant dilatation and to encourage epithelial canalization at its site,

(2) to effect a fistulous track between the lacrimal sac and middle meatus of nose (summerskill's intubation dacryocystorhinostomy).

(3) to maintain the ostium in conjunctivorhinostomy where gross trauma has destroyed the lacrimal sac.

The failure of D.C.R. is rare occurring in most series in less than 15% cases. The management of unsuccessful D.C.R. poses a therapeutic problem. In failed cases when the site is explored one can observe the growth of granulation tissue in raw areas.

In some, the lumen of the tube becomes blocked by granulation, by polyps from the lacrimal sac and by progressive fibrosis.

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