

## **LONG TERM COMPLICATIONS OF SEPTAL DERMOPLASTY IN HEREDITARY HAEMORRHAGIC TELANGIECTASIA PATIENTS**

**C Levine, K Henderson, SB Leder, RI White, DA Ross**

**Section of Otolaryngology (CL, SBL,DAR), Department of Radiology(KH,RIW), and The Yale Vascular Malformation Center (CL,DAR,KH,RIW), Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, Connecticut, U.S.A.**

**Objectives:** Septal dermoplasty has been recommended as the treatment of choice for life-threatening epistaxis in patients with hereditary hemorrhagic telangiectasia. The purpose of this study was to evaluate retrospectively the long term complications of the septal dermoplasty procedure.

**Methods:** Between 1994 and 2006, septal dermoplasty was performed on 106 consecutive patients with severe epistaxis attributable to hereditary hemorrhagic telangiectasia. The number of patients complaining of odor, changes in smell, crusting, sinusitis, and data on quality of life were obtained by phone interview.

**Results:** Data was obtained in 50 of 109 (46%) patients with a mean age of 65.6 years and a mean follow-up of 3 years and 9 months. 39 of 50 (78%) experienced odor at some point and 22 of 50 (44%) said it was currently a main problem. 36 of 50 (72%) had problems with crusting at some point after surgery, 16 of 50 (32%) indicated it was a main problem currently. 44 of 50 (88%) could breath through their nose some to all of the time. 29 of 50 (58%) had decreased sense of smell. 15 of 50 (30%) had worsened sinus infections. 43 of 50 (86%) stated improvements in their quality of life.

**Conclusion:** Although extremely effective in treating epistaxis, this analysis demonstrates that long term complications exist with septal dermoplasty procedure. Even with theses complications, the procedure subjectively improves patients' quality of life.