Challenges in Rhinology

Cemal Cingi Nuray Bayar Muluk Glenis K. Scadding Ranko Mladina Editors



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Preface

The inspiration for this book occurred when three of the editors (RM, CC, and myself) were floating on a gulet off the coast near Marmaris. After dinner, discussions turned to unsolved questions which we had asked ourselves over the years about Rhinology, our special subject. We realized that no one had put the answers to, or their pet theories about, these questions into a book—yet such a volume would be of use to many young Rhinologists, and even to their elders and to those in other related fields. Hence, the current volume.

Its gestation is also of interest since the initial version of most chapters has been researched and written by a young and enthusiastic specialist. This was then scrutinized and altered by one of his or her local mentors before being sent to a recognized expert in the field. Finally, I have read them all and made a few of my own suggestions, largely related to my own experience, or an update from recent papers.

The resulting volume has 49 chapters, written by over 100 authors from 21 countries—so it holds a widespread knowledge and expertise. The subjects range from basic anatomy and physiology, such as the importance of extra sinuses and the nasal cycle, through pathology: epistaxis, hyperreactivity, cerebrospinal fluid rhinorrhoea, rhinitis, and rhinosinusitis of all kinds, immune deficiency, to therapy: both medical and surgical.

Budding rhinoplasty surgeons will find plenty to occupy them: Chapters 22–29 concern this fascinating subject and show how the practice has evolved in recent years. Those who use medical treatments have multiple chapters concerning allergic rhinitis, local allergic rhinitis, paediatric rhinitis, chronic rhinosinusitis with and without nasal polyps. Therapies such as aspirin desensitization, combination sprays, complementary medicine, anti-fungals, allergen-specific immunotherapy, and biologics are included.

There are chapters suited for ear specialists, such as the significance of rhinitis in otitis media with effusion or whether the perforated eardrum is analogous to an accessory sinus ostium. Those who treat cough have Chaps. 42 and 44. Lower airways are also included in Chaps. 40 and 41, where the concept of united airways is explored and whether treating rhinitis helps asthma is discussed. Chapter 33 is devoted to optimal anaesthesia for nasal surgery, and the final chapter concerns forensic aspects of Rhinology.

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Our hope is that this book will act as a wise elder to whom the Rhinologist can turn for answers to many of their questions. If there are some with which we have failed to deal, please let us know.

London, UK April 1, 2020 Glenis K. Scadding

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What Is the Ideal Packing and Ointment after Nasal Surgery?

29

Ali Seyed Resuli, Cemal Cingi, and Jivianne T. Lee

29.1 Nasal Packing

Nasal packing is an essential component of ENT surgery. Following many different surgical procedures on the nose, e.g. rhinoplasty, septoplasty, turbinate minimization or cautery, nasal packing plays a key role in preventing haemorrhage or crust formation and, on occasion, helps secure flaps or grafts in the correct alignment. The range of products composed of various materials and marketed for use as packing has been steadily growing [1].

Nasal packing materials need to:

- Promote haemostasis following nosebleeds or an operation.
- Offer structural support to cartilage or bone, the conchae or other soft tissues (such as to an advancement flap).
- Stop adhesions forming or stenosis developing, particularly after sinus procedures. This kind of pack needs to remain in place for a more extensive period [2]. Struts [2–4] and some materials offer particular benefit in these uses.

What material a pack should be made of, the indications for placement and the duration of packing remain unresolved issues at present [6, 7].

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How do nasal packs work?

- Packing materials press on the tissues for haemostasis.
- They can occupy cavities to prevent adhesion formation.
- They preserve moisture by occluding the area, which then allows a return to non-pathological physiology.
- · They form a barrier.
- They foster haemostasis and physiological wound repair.

29.1.1 Materials for Nasal Packs

29.1.1.1 Rubber-Covered Sponge Packs (Gummifingerlingtamponaden in German = GFT)

GFT is the name for a latex-encased sponge which is impermeable to microorganisms. Variation in the way the pack is manufactured can affect the quality of the latex and how securely thread retains the pack. An overly smooth thread runs the risk of slippage and may press unduly on the columella or the alar cartilages [1].

GFT placement is straightforward and rarely produces any injury, haemorrhage or pain. A variable pressure, ranging from slight to moderate, can be exerted on the mucosae [1].

There are, however, two important risks to consider [1]:

- The vestibulum of the nose may be traumatized, i.e. the columella and alar cartilages.
- If the pack slips backwards, there is a risk it may be aspirated.
- There is also a risk of toxic shock syndrome, if antibiotics are not prescribed prophylactically as these are nonabsorbable packs.
- These packs should be avoided in latex-allergic patients.

29.1.1.2 Expandable Nasal Packs

Expandable nasal packs are manufactured from the material polyvinyl acetate, viscose and cellulose (Sugomed) [1].

29.1.1.3 PVA Nasal Packs (=PVA-NP)

PVA nasal packs start off small in size and are available as several different types of different dimensions. The glue dissolves when it touches blood or water, allowing the pack to decompress and increase in size. The absorption capacity of the packs is 20 times their original weight. The material is soft and springy, so that a slight or medium pressure can be applied to the lining of the nose. How smooth and what size it is decide how easily a pack can move. A very small pore size means that granulation tissue does not spread into the pack itself, and that means a smoother pack will be easier to remove without causing pain or bleeding. Small pore size also results in a denser pack and one which better resists stretching. Liquids are absorbed more gradually, and less liquid is taken up by the pack. The most well-known PVA-NP is

Merocel. The big pore size of this material, nonetheless, means that it and similar products are unsuitable for nasal packing [1].

An ideal PVA-NP:

- Has minimal pore size, making it more comfortable to remove (3.08 versus 5 on a VAS 0-10, series 5000) [8].
- Has a coating on the sides (like Merocel Laminated) consisting of a composite
 material, which decreases tissue injury still more. The front, back, top and bottom of the pack need a rough surface with large pores.
- Should possess antimicrobial activity against *Escherichia coli*, staphylococci, *Yersinia* spp., *Serratia* spp. and *Bacillus subtilis* [1].

29.1.1.4 Sugomed

Sugomed comes in strip or plate form and is capable of expansion. It is composed of cellulose (31.3%) and viscose (68.7%). Liquids are absorbed, making the material swell, albeit not as much as PVA-NP. The pores are finer than the original Merocel, which increases patient comfort when taking the pack away, but packs with a smoother surface are still superior in this regard. The principal reason to prefer Sugomed over Merocel is that the packs can be personalised in terms of dimensions and form. Some surgeons use one long strip to go inside both nostrils. Doing this carries the risk of putting pressure on the columella [1].

29.1.1.5 Rapid Rhino

Rapid Rhino refers to a nose pack, the inside of which is spongy. Several types exist, e.g. Riemann, Goodman or Mannheim, and length varies. There also exists a balloon coated with carboxymethyl cellulose (CMC). CMC coats both parts, i.e. the balloon catheter and the spongy inner layer. The pack exerts pressure and closes gaps in the nasal cavity. Thus, it is a kind of formed nasal pack. Whilst it is known that platelets aggregate in response to CMC, which has beneficial haemostatic effects, this is probably only a minor part of how the pack works. When CMC is mixed with water (not saline, however), a gel results which has a smooth consistency and is beneficial in membranous recovery. This is a key part of how the pack with a spongy inner layer functions, but it is probably a minor element in how the balloon catheter-type pack achieves its benefit. The packs have nylon threads sewn into them, and this may stick to the mucosa and prevent the pack from being easily taken out. The benefits of the gel, i.e. occlusion of injury and restoration of physiological homeostasis, are available separately as CMC. This is sold as a Sinu-Knit or Stammberger gel [1].

Rapid Rhino has been shown to offer superior patient comfort, defined as pain whilst being put in place and taken out, or nosebleed [9, 10]. Rapid Rhino is also effective in individuals with a nosebleed or following sinus operations [9–12].

29.1.1.6 Cotton Gauze Strips

Cotton gauze strips vary in terms of how wide they are, the calibre of the knit and what type of threads are integral [1].

29.1.1.7 Balloon Packs/Balloon Catheter

Possibly the only reason to use balloon packs is for a grave nosebleed originating in the posterior nasal cavity. They are effective and swift in this indication. Whilst balloon packs do not occlude the branches of the sphenopalatine artery in a direct fashion, they can isolate the nasopharynx. Once the front of the nasal cavity has been blocked off, the rest of the cavity can be pressurised to put pressure on the leaking blood vessels. The most basic balloon packs use a single balloon. Others have twin balloons to place within the nasal cavity and the nasopharynx. Twin catheters do, however, carry the following risks [1]:

- The anterior balloon puts pressure on the nasal septum and turbinates and may cause necrosis, rather than directly compressing the leaking arteries. The balloon pushes the septum over to the other side [13]. In a case where the anterior balloon is directly compressing a bleeding vessel, a similar therapeutic effect can be achieved with diathermy or a less invasive placement of nasal packing.
- The vestibulum of the nose is prone to injury, particularly if the catheter is too short. This means long packs are needed each time.
- It is not generally necessary to undertake sinus surgery unless the posterior plate of the maxillary sinus is hard to find.
- Many arterial branches may exist [14].
- Simmen states that the branch of the artery supplying the anterior plate of the sphenoid sinus is the most commonly affected.

Balloon packs possess a greater degree of sophistication than Foley catheters, but the latter can achieve the same result at a lower cost. All balloon packs suffer from problems in securely attaching the catheter. Necrosis of the ala is also a problem. Several suggestions have been offered as to how this danger can be minimized:

- Secure the nasal pack anteriorly with a very secure knot.
- Coat the surface with foam [15].
- The distal end is cut and positioned 8 cm further than the proximal end of the dilated balloon and clamped into place [16].

29.1.1.8 Hemostatic/Resorbable/Biodegradable Packs

Patients now expect to be more comfortable following sinus operations than was previously the case. Some ENT clinicians have made the decision not to use nasal packs at all, since they carry several risks. Novel products have come into the market to fill this gap, but these products cannot press nor support, as conventional nasal packs used to do. The older products had the following drawbacks [1]:

- The pack exerts pressure when in place that can damage the cilia of the mucosa. This may also occur due to injury when placing or taking out a pack.
- Taking away the pack can cause injury and haemorrhage.
- Packs may be uncomfortable because of the pressure they exert.
- There are other, more detailed risks.

In nasal septal operations, nasal packs are unnecessary provided specific suture techniques and splints are employed. In contemporary operations on the sinuses and conchae (done endoscopically), nasal packs are frequently unnecessary. However, aggressive conchal reduction or radical sinus surgery frequently results in profuse bleeding that calls for formed packs, as formed packs are the only means by which adequate pressure can be applied. Using more gentle endoscopic sinus surgical techniques not only offers comparable or superior outcomes from the operation but also lessens the disadvantages, such as crusting, scar or bone spur formation after injury trauma. As a final note, more comfortable nasal packs can be utilised [1].

Combining materials in various ways can achieve a variety of aims [1]:

- Haemostasis.
- Taking advantage of adhesive quality to position tissues.
- · Barrier formation.
- Better recovery from trauma.
- Ability to seal a surface or cavity.

29.1.1.9 Gelatine (Gelfilm, Gelfoam)

Researchers in the US report on the application of gelatine obtained from porcine skin to the osteomeatal unit or ethmoid following sinus operations. This was carried out as well as positioning a nasal pack. When this material was applied in the sinuses, scar formation increased, adhesions were formed, and the maxillary meatus narrowed [17–19].

29.1.1.10 Bovine Gelatine Plus Thrombin (Floseal)

Floseal gel possesses high viscosity and aids in haemostasis. It can stick even to rough or wet surfaces like those in the nasal sinuses, even if the haemorrhage is extensive [20]. It may be employed in individuals with platelet deficiency or with abnormal platelet activity. Floseal is the highest rated haemostatic pack [5, 21]. Nonetheless, there are also several disadvantages:

- Scarring and adhesion formation is more common [22–26].
- Foreign body reaction may occur, and the foreign body may become integrated into the mucosa, even where no injury was present [25, 26].

29.1.1.11 Hyaluronic Acid (I.E. Merogel (Esterified Hyaluronic Acid), Sepragel (Hyaluronic Acid Polymers with Cross-Linkage), Seprapack (CMC in Combination with Hyaluronic Acid))

Hyaluronic acid (HA) occurs naturally as an unbranched polysaccharide (glyco-amino-glycane) consisting of repeating disaccharide units of sodium-d-glucuronate and N-acetyl-d-glucosamine. It is located in the basal membranes of cells and soft tissues. It plays a key role in cellular increase and migration. HA is a vital element in the repair of injury in the foetus, a process with virtually absent scar formation [1].

29.1.1.12 Other Hemostatic Materials

Fibrin adhesive has been employed in nosebleeds, coagulopathies, nasal septoplasty and sinus operations [27]. This adhesive has lower associated oedema, crusting and atrophic cicatrification than diathermy, silver nitrate application or nasal packing, when used to manage nosebleeds. At present, its role in sinus surgery has not been fully evaluated.

29.2 Ointments on Nasal Packs

Typically, surgeons employ vaseline or antibiotic ointments. Ointments allow for frictionless insertion of strips and the prevention of crusting. It is assumed that antibiotics stop infections, although this has not yet been experimentally confirmed. Cotton gauze strips should not be utilized post-surgically on the septum, conchae or sinuses as they are not very effective [1].

Ointments may be mixed according to the clinician's inclination, before application to nasal packs.

One possible combination is ciprofloxacin, ketoprofen, ephedrine hydrochloride and lanolin, which has the following advantages:

29.2.1 Ciprofloxacin

Topical preparations have the benefits of delivering the agent precisely to the lesion and achieving a high localised bioavailability without a correspondingly high systemic concentration. Drawbacks are that it may be difficult to apply to the lesion, there may be localised side effects, such as nosebleed or pain, and entry into the sinuses may be hit-and-miss. However, as the nasal cavity and sinuses are generally straightforward to access, this is a popular site for topical treatments and topical preparations are now integrated into the treatment of chronic rhinosinusitis, for example. Oral ciprofloxacin has been shown to achieve a higher concentration in the mucosa than a topical ointment in patients with chronic rhinosinusitis, but at the cost of a high plasma concentration, and gel was seen to be the best form for a topical preparation of ciprofloxacin [28].

29.2.2 Ketoprofen

Ketoprofen is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) and its mechanism of action is the inhibition of the cyclo-oxygenase enzyme, which is a key enzyme in the synthesis of the prostaglandins. Prostaglandins are pro-inflammatory modulators. Inhibition of prostaglandin synthesis has the effect of dampening down the inflammatory response. Topical ketoprofen has been employed as analgesia and anti-inflammatory in the following conditions: minor bruising injuries, tendonitis, osteoarthritis of distal joints, acute lumbar pain and phlebitis [29].

Topical ketoprofen preparations exist as creams, gels, solutions, sprays and plasters, with a variety of proprietary as well as generic products on the market [29]. The rationale for the inclusion of ketoprofen in an ointment for nasal application is to shorten the duration of wound healing.

29.2.3 Ephedrine Hydrochloride

Nasal blockage resulting from several different disorders that affect the nose is commonly managed through the use of nonselective adrenergic alpha-agonists, e.g. phenylpropanolamine and d-pseudoephedrine [30]. Since both ephedrine and pseudoephedrine cause vasoconstriction to the lining of the nose, they are very suitable to prevent nasal congestion from developing [31].

How the plexus of vessels which supply the mucosal lining of the nose is regulated has a profound effect on the engorgement of blood in the venous sinuses, which then causes mucosal swelling, leading to the lower flow of air through the nose. Thus, any disturbance here leads to a perception of nasal stuffiness [10]. Both the venous and arterial sides of the vascular network are innervated by adrenergic fibres acting on alpha- (vasoconstrictive) and beta- (vasodilatory) receptors. The alpha-receptors are more preponderant [10]. Ephedrine and pseudoephedrine act on the vascular plexus via alpha-receptors to produce vasoconstriction and hence relief of nasal blockage. This improves the patient's quality of life.

29.2.4 Lanolin

Lanolin has benefits as it produces a frictionless surface and stops adhesions to the pack from forming.

Lanolin itself is a light yellow-coloured, sticky liquid which is extracted from sheep's wool. Melting lanolin gives it a non-cloudy yellow-tinged appearance. Although lanolin is sometimes referred to as wool fat or wool grease, since it does not contain glycerides, chemically speaking, it is not a fat. The main components are sterol esters; thus, it is more appropriately termed a wax [32]. Lanolin forms a physical barrier to adhesion to make packing easier to take out later. It must be avoided in lanolin allergic patients.

29.3 Conclusion

An ideal nasal packing material should possess the strength to keep the bones, septum and mucosal flaps in the desired position. It should compress vessels and thus staunch haemorrhage yet be sufficiently gentle to avoid irritation and patient discomfort whilst in place.

Any ointment over the pack serves to counter infection, oedema and crusting. If the ointment has a greasy quality, it will act as a lubricant for the insertion and removal of the nasal pack, rendering its use easier for both the surgeon and the patient.

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