Surgical Treatment of Crohn's Disease

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Purpose: This study was undertaken to investigate the preoperative diagnosis, indication for operation, postoperative complication, postoperative medical treatment and recurrence rate in patients with Crohn's disease who were treated with operation. Methods: Forty patients with Crohn's diseases had been operated on at the Department of Surgery, Yonsei University College of Medicine during the period from Jan 1986 to May 1999 and they were reviewed retrospectively. We studies symptoms, surgical indications, preoperative and postoperative treatments, involvement sites, types of operation and recurrence rate in Crohn's disease. Results: The male to female ratio was 1.5: 1, and age distribution was from 8 to 69 years old with mean age of 33 years old. The duration of symptoms varies from within 1 day to above 10 years and most of them had within 1 month as 17 cases (42.5%). Symptoms are abdominal pain, hematochezia, anorexia, abdominal mass and diarrhea. The most frequent symptom was the abdominal pain as 85%. Crohn's disease was diagnosed only 45% before operation, less than what we expected. In another hand it surprised us find out that tuberculosis enteritis was diagnosed as much as 20%. The most common indication of operation was medical treatment failure as 13 cases, and fistula was 7 cases, intestinal obstruction with stenosis and tumor were 6 cases each other. The involvement of small bowel was most common as 40%, and the most common operative findings were ulceration and fistula for 17 cases and 12 cases respectively. Small bowel cases were treated with segmental resection and anastomosis in all 16 cases. Large bowel cases were performed right hemicolectomy in 10 cases and total colectomy in 1 case. Both small and large bowel involvement cases, right hemicolectomy was done in 4 cases, right hemicolectomy and segmental resection of small bowel was done in 6 cases. The recurrence rate of postoperative medical treatment was 16% and 28% for 5 years and 10 years respectively. The recurrence rate with no postoperative medical treatment was 13% and 26% for each 5 years and 10 years. There was no significantly difference in both groups. Conclusion: The major surgical indications for Crohn's disease were medical treatment failure, fistula and intestinal obstruction. Specially in Korea, differential diagnosis with tuberculosis enteritis was very important. Postoperative complication and recurrence rate has relatively low incidence. Our study suggest that postoperative medical treatment was controversial. (JKSCP 2000;16:415-422)

Key Words: Crohn's disease, Complication, Surgical indication, Postoperative treatment

; , 146-92, (135-270)

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3)

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40 , Table 1. Age and sex distribution

,				,	Age	(year)	Male	Female	Total (%)
				·	1	10	1	0	1 (2.5%)
1986 1					11	20	1	2	3 (7.5%)
					21	30	5	8	13 (32.5%)
		4000	_		31	40	9	3	12 (30.0%)
	1	1999	5	5	41	50	6	2	8 (20.0%)
					51	60	2	0	2 (5.0%)
					61	70	0	1	1 (2.5%)

Total

24

16

40

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15,16

5 : 417

Table 2. Involvement site of Crohn's disease

Site	Number of patients (%)
Small bowel Large bowel Small & large bowel	16 (40%) 11 (28%) 13 (32%)
Total	40

Table 3. Preoperative diagnosis

Diagnosis	Number of patients (%)
Crohn's disease	18 (45%)
Tuberculosis enteritis	8 (20%)
Colon tumor	5 (12.5%)
Intestinal Obstruction	3 (7.5%)
Panperitonitis	3 (7.5%)
Intra-abdominal abscess	1 (2.5%)
Small bowel tumor	1 (2.5%)
Sigmoid colon cancer	1 (2.5%)
Total	40

4)

(28%) (Table 2).

5)

(17.5%) 20 (50%)

6 35 12 18

Table 4. Indications for operation

Indication	Number of patients (%)
Medical treatment failure	13 (32.5%)
Internal fistula	7 (17.5%)
Intestinal obstruction	6 (15.0%)
Tumor	6 (15.0%)
Intra-abdominal abscess	4 (10.0%)
Peritonitis	3 (7.5%)
Incidental*	1 (2.5%)
Total	40

^{*}Sigmoid colon cancer was associated with Crohn's disease.

Table 5. Intraoperative findings of Crohn's disease related complications

Findings	Number of patients (%)
Ulceration	17 (42.5%)
Fistula	12 (30.0%)
Intestinal obstruction	9 (22.5%)
Bowel perforation	7 (17.5%)
Intra-abdominal abscess	7 (17.5%)
Abdominal mass	4 (10.0%)
Total	40

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5 (46%) 6

(54%)

Table 6. Postoperative medical treatment and recurrence rate

Treatment choice	Number	Recurrence rate			
Treatment choice	of patients	5 year (%)	10 year (%)		
Medical treatment	25	4 (16%)	7 (28%)		
No medical treatment	nt 15	2 (13%)	4 (26%)		
Total	40	6 (15%)	11 (27.5%)		

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8 (20%)
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                                  가
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                                1,
                                                가
                가 1
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13 (32.5%)
                           20 (50%)
                  가
                    가
                                가 3
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           35
                                            (short bowel syndrome)
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가 88% Aeberhard 28 15 26 65% 15 45%, 10 33 82% 15% 10 27.5% 10 가 가 1 가 . 1 가 4 . De Jong 가 6 . 1 25 (62.5%) 15 (37.5%) 5 . 3 16%(4) 10 28%(7) . 13%(2) 10 가 5 26%(4) 1 가 가 가 가 가 25,28,29 1. 11 17% 4 8% 5 가 (46%) (54%) 가 3 , 4 (7.5%) 가 1 1986 1 1999 13 가 가 40

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