Digital subtraction dacryocystography and syringing in the management of epiphora.

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Abstract

AIM: To compare the diagnostic information provided by digital subtraction dacryocystography (DCG) and syringing of the nasolacrimal system in patients with epiphora.

METHODS: Twenty-five lacrimal systems of 17 patients, who presented with unilateral or bilateral epiphora and no concurrent ocular or lid abnormality, were prospectively entered into the study. The patients initially underwent syringing by a lacrimal specialist followed by DCG.

RESULTS: Anatomical obstructions were detected in 88% of systems with syringing and in 84% with DCG. The anatomical sites of obstruction varied between the two tests in 20% of lacrimal drainage systems. Additional useful information was provided by DCG in 28% of the cases, including identification of multiple sites of obstruction, the presence of dacryoliths, fistulae, and congenital malpositions of the nasolacrimal sac-duct junction.

CONCLUSION: The two investigations were found to have comparable detection rates for anatomical obstructions. Syringing thus appears to be able to detect the problem in the majority of cases but DCG can help delineate unidentified factors of surgical significance in a selected subgroup of patients.

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