



Intraoperative Nerve Monitoring in Otolaryngology: A Survey of Clinical Practice Patterns

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Intraoperative nerve monitoring is used in otolaryngology to assist in identification of nerves at risk. It is hoped that this will lead to lower rates of nerve injury. The objective of this study was to quantify the use of monitoring technology in current clinical practice. **Method:** An electronic survey was distributed to 376 registered fellows of the Australian Society of Head and Neck Surgery. **Results:** One-hundred and twenty-five responses were obtained. The majority of respondents report using monitoring at least some of the time during thyroid, parotid, and mastoid surgery (80%, 87%, and 73% respectively). **Predictors of use** include experience with intraoperative monitoring during training, and high caseloads in parotid surgery. **Practice setting** did not predict use. **Conclusion:** Despite equivocal evidence that intraoperative nerve monitoring is associated with a reduction in nerve injuries, this study demonstrates that the technology is widely used amongst otolaryngologists.

KEYWORDS

Monitoring; Intraoperative; Mastoid/Surgery; Parotid Gland/Surgery; Thyroid Gland/Surgery; Physician 's Practice Patterns

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