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A newly-established neuromuscular reconstruction service to provide holistic care for patients with facial palsy

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Introduction

The current service in Hong Kong for facial palsy and facial nerve disorders is under-developed. Many patients were treated with obsolete procedures. Most of them have never been offered the option of dynamic reconstruction, despite it being the best rehabilitation options in suitable patients. In an attempt to improve the standard of care, the three authors started the first joint monthly clinic that is dedicated to optimize the treatment of different forms of neuromuscular conditions by a multidisciplinary approach with the input from plastic surgeons, neurologists, and physiotherapists. We aim to provide a new range of services to this group of patients including functional muscle transfer, nerve transfer, botox relief of facial spasm, and various other forms of new treatments. This clinic is first of its kind in Hong Kong and we accept patients from all districts in Hong Kong. We are hoping that it shall provide up-to-date and holistic care for this group of patients.

Objectives

To review our experience in the newly-established clinic to evaluate its impact in patient care

Methodology

The clinic started in January 2015. All patients seen in our clinic in 2015 were retrieved. Chart review was performed to analyze demographic data, clinical presentation, and treatment details.

Result

Results: In 2015, 40 new cases were served in the twelve monthly clinics and 45% were males. The mean age was 58 years. The commonest cause for facial palsy Among these patients, 45% received electromyography / nerve conduction study

assessment, 58% had different forms of physiotherapy, and 42.5% had undergone surgery. Twelve patients had palpebral spring insertion of eyelid reanimation, 7 patients underwent oral reanimation with functional muscle transfer, and four patients received botox injections for facial spasm. Conclusions: The new clinic was effective in improving the standard of care provided to patients with facial palsy and facial nerve disorder. Patients were able to benefit from the combined input from different specialties which were necessary for a holistic care.