

## Euro Surgery 2020. Using Eggshell Membrane in the Fresh Cadaveric Cow Brain for Brain Protection

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The aim of this experimental study was to evaluate the use of eggshell membrane in the protection of brain tissue from the harmful mechanical effect of metallic microsurgical instruments during neurosurgical interventions. Methods: Thirty uncovered fresh cadaveric cow brains were equally divided into two groups: group with eggshell membrane group (Group I) and without eggshell membrane group (Group II). In Group I, eggshell membrane was sprawled over the left lateral side of the interhemispheric sulcus of the anterior brain surface. The mechanical traumatic effects of the metallic surgical instruments were divided into three groups: minor, moderate and severe. Results: In Group I (n=15), the number of minor injured brains was found to be 12 (80%). In Group II (n=15), the number of minor injured brains was found to be 5 (33.33%). On the contrary, the number of moderately injured brains parenchyma in Group I cow brains was estimated to be 2 (13.33%). However, the number of moderately injured brains in Group II was found to be 9 (60%). The number of severe injury was found to be 1 (6.67%) in Group II. The number of same injury was also found to be 1 (6.67%) in Group I. Conclusion: This study showed that protecting the naked brain tissue from the mechanical injury effect of metallic microsurgical instruments with covering of eggshell membrane is feasible. It is believed that this material might contribute to the practical micro neurosurgery in protecting the brain tissue.

**Introduction:** Micro neurosurgical operations require different metallic instruments during the surgical treatment of pathologic lesion located within the brain tissue. The protection of the neurovascular structure of the brain is an extremely important and critical point in all kinds of micro neurosurgical

interventions. Theoretical and practical trained micro neurosurgical ability is not sufficient in protecting the brain parenchyma from the mechanical injury of the metallic microsurgical instruments during the surgical intervention to the brain tissue. Specific micro neurosurgical techniques such as proper use of the operating microscope, holding and grasping of the micro neurosurgical instruments, proper microsurgical techniques for the opening of the arachnoid membranes, safe and delicate neurovascular dissection, and carefully and properly micro drilling of the cranial base bones should be learned before performing an operation [1-4].

Theoretical knowledge, practical techniques, and microsurgical operative disciplines for protecting delicate brain and related structures located within the cranium are mainly provided during the residency years of neurosurgical education [1,2]. Spending of time in experimental microsurgical laboratory to practice some kinds of microsurgical models such as dissection and suturing of the rat external carotid artery, dissection and evaluation of the abdominal vena cava of rats, suturing of the plastic glove materials by using micro forceps under the operating microscope, drilling and dissection of the some cadaveric bone materials are essential improving and gaining of advanced microneurosurgical practical techniques [1,2,4]. Metallic surgical instruments may mechanically injure the delicate brain parenchyma and related structures such as cranial nerves and vascular structures in the microneurosurgical operations. Some specific materials may be used in the protection of brain tissue from the harmful effect of metallic instruments. The aim of this experimental study was to evaluate the use of eggshell membrane

sheet in the protecting naked brain tissue from the harmful mechanical effect of metallic microsurgical instruments. Experimental findings, difficulties, practical methods and suggestions were discussed under the light of the literature.

**Materials and Methods:** All microneurosurgical activities were performed under the operating microscope in this experimental study. An experimental microneurosurgical brain protection model was created using fresh cadaveric uncovered cow brain for evaluating the efficacy of eggshell membrane. The cow brains were equally divided into two groups: group with eggshell membrane (Group I) and without eggshell membrane group (Group II). In Group I, the eggshell membrane was sprawled over the left lateral side of the inter hemispheric sulcus of the anterior brain surface. The eggshell membrane should be held carefully from both ends using a micro bayonet. Sprinkles of some water over the brain surface before sprawling of the eggshell membrane facilitate the use of the material. Dissection of the inter hemispheric fissure using micro bayonet and micro scissor is shown in Figures 1 and 2, respectively.

In Group II, no material was used for brain protection. Micro bayonet, micro scissor, micro dissector, the metallic tip of the aspirator and bipolar forceps were used in the dissection, distraction and separation of inter hemispheric fissure in two groups. The operation was started with the cutting of arachnoid membrane over the inter hemispheric fissure using the micro scissor. It was followed with the separation and distraction of the fissure by using micro bayonet, micro dissector, and the tip of the aspirator. Microdissection and separation were continued until the corpus callosum was reached. Following the completion of dissection of the inter hemispheric fissure, advanced separation and distraction was performed using metallic Leyla retractor 1 cm in width of the retractor blade. Two-centimeter separation from the opposite brain hemisphere was performed for 20 min. In Group II, the eggshell membrane was

not used for protecting brain tissue. All aforementioned operating procedures were performed by team in the same way for same time. Next, all operated brains were sliced regularly (0.5 cm) from the anterior to the posterior direction for evaluating the harmful effects of metallic instruments and open biopsy micro-separator on the brain parenchyma. All brain slices were evaluated under the magnification of the operating microscope in terms of contusion, tearing, distortion, and other traumatic features. The mechanical traumatic effects of the metallic surgical instruments were divided into three groups: mild, moderate and severe. The mild traumatic effects were defined as follows: contusion, tearing, distortion, and other traumatic features were not observed in the brain slices. The moderate traumatic effects were defined as follows: contusion, tearing, distortion, and other traumatic features were observed in the brain slices. The severe traumatic effects were defined as follows: contusion, tearing, distortion, and other traumatic features were observed in the brain slices.

well-known and recognized for a safe microneurosurgical intervention [1-4]. The use of these instrumen

dissection progressed, the eggshell membrane was carefully pulled deep into the dissected and separated inter hemispheric sulcal space. The metallic brain component of the Leyla retractor was kept for 20 min. on the right hemisphere to retract the brain 2 cm lateral from the opposite hemisphere with standard chain retraction resistance. This was the final part of the experimental process. The presence of contusion, distortion and laceration were evaluated on the sliced brain materials using the operating microscope. The differences between protected and unprotected brain slices in terms of traumatic brain injury were quite clear. The protected brain hemi-

spheres with egg shell membrane have less contusion, distortion and laceration injury compared with the unprotected brain hemispheres. Laceration and distortion are more common injuries in unprotected brain hemisphere.

**Conclusion:** This study showed that protecting the naked brain tissue with covering of eggshell membrane from the mechanical harmful effect of metallic microsurgical instruments is feasible. It is believed that this material might contribute to the practical micro neurosurgery in protecting brain tissue under the magnification of operating microscope.