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Simultaneous cochlear implantation in vestibular schwannoma surgery: a therapeutic option

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Introduction: Hearing loss is the most common symptom of vestibular schwannomas (VS). The management of these lesions includes observation, radiosurgery, and microsurgical resection. Hearing preservation and rehabilitation are the major challenges after the tumor treatment.

Case Report: A 43-year-old male with previous left profound hearing loss and tinnitus presented with a 2 mm left intracanalicular vestibular schwannoma. The decision was made to perform a simultaneous cochlear implantation (CI) and microsurgical resection of the tumor. The patient did well with significant improvement of tinnitus, sound localization, and speech recognition in noise.

Discussion: Previous reports of simultaneous cochlear implantation and VS resection in patients with NF-2 (Neurofibromatosis type 2) and sporadic VS in the only hearing ear has been described. The role of CI in patients with VS and normal contralateral hearing has been recently described showing positive outcomes due to the binaural benefits. Tinnitus also can be treated by the implant of the cochlear device. The simultaneous microsurgical removal of vestibular schwannoma and cochlear implantation is a feasible approach to patients with unilateral hearing loss and severe tinnitus.

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