

Introduction

• Prehelician fistula is a congenital malformation located just anterior to the root of the helix, characterized by the persistence of a pre-auricular pertus.

- Sex: female predominance.
- Average age: 13 years old (10 – 18 years old).
- Branchio-oto-renal syndrome: No cases.
- Family history of prehelician fistula: No cases.
- The circumstance of discovery: an orifice in front of the helix root (fig 1).
- Unilateral fistula: 80% with right predominance.

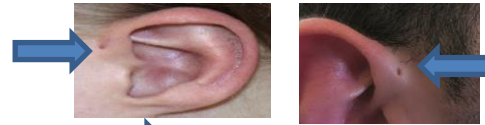


Fig 1: Prehelician fistula.

- Superinfected prehelician fistula: 6 cases, which were all unilateral, requiring surgery after cooling the infection.
- The average consultation time: 1 year.

Results

- Audiogram hearing: normal in all cases.(fig 2).

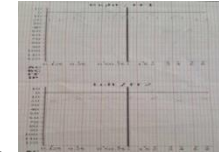


Fig 2: normal audiogram hearing.

- Treatment: surgical in all cases according to the excision of the fistulous tract.
- Anatomopathologic examination: Benign prehelician fistulous tract .
- Evolution:
 - Unilateral recurrence in the same side after 5 months of initial surgery : 4 patients.
 - Postoperative superinfection of the orifice: 2 patients requiring antibiotic treatment based on amoxicillin clavulanic acid.

Objective

• To illustrate the clinical aspects of patients with prehelician fistula and to determine treatment, evolution and particularities of this entity.

Conclusion

• Prehelician fistula is a benign congenital malformation. The surgical procedure must be precise to avoid recurrence.

Materials and Methods

• A retrospective study about 10 patients, collected over a period of 5 years (2019 – 2023). We made diagnosis on clinical arguments, and confirmed it by histological examination after surgical excision. All patients had a pre operative audiogram.

Discussion

• Prehelician fistula is the most frequent congenital fistula. A female predominance is noted and superinfection is the most frequent complication which is consistent with our study. It is often bilateral in the literature which is inconsistent with our study.