Patient’s preference shifting in Ultrasound-guided Vacuum-assisted excision (UGVAE) procedure during COVID-19 pandemic in Indonesia: a cross-sectional study

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Abstract

INTRODUCTION: The pandemic has challenged doctors and patients to act differently from old habit. Before the era of COVID-19 pandemic in Indonesia is declared, ultrasound-guided vacuum-assisted excision (UGVAE) procedure – a relatively new procedure in Indonesia were often done under general anaesthesia based on patient preference who felt that underwent surgery in full consciousness was frightening. However there has been preference changing about the anaesthesia method during this pandemic. Patients with symptomatic benign breast lesion or anxiety who felt the need of removing the tumors, chose to be treated by UGVAE procedure with local anaesthesia for the fact that would require them to stay in shorter time in
the hospital. The aim of this study is to evaluate the patient safety, satisfaction and efficacy of UGVAE under local anesthesia for suspicious benign lesion during COVID-19 pandemic.

MATERIAL AND METHODS: This is a cross sectional study that carried out by involving 50 patients underwent UGVAE for suspicious benign lesions from June to October 2020 at MMC Hospital, Jakarta. Data collected were age, lesion size, tumor histology and their reasons for taking UGVAE procedure during COVID-19 pandemic. A questionnaire was sent at least four weeks after the procedure to assess pain, complications, cosmetic result and possibility to get the transmission of COVID-19 after the procedure.

RESULTS: Out of fifty patients, forty seven (94%) had histological benign lesions. Forty-four (88%) patients said they had the courage to get UGVAE action during the pandemic because they were afraid of the enlarged lump and believed that as long they obey the COVID-19 pandemic protocol, they would not get infected. All patients replied to the questionnaire. None of the patients have symptoms related to COVID-19 pandemic after the procedure. Sixteen (32%) patients reported no pain during the procedure. Thirty-four (68%) rated their pain at visual scale pain ≤3/10 and no patients rated their pain at ≥3/10. For pain after procedure : only nine (18%) patients had no pain in a week after the procedure, while seventeen (34%) patients reported pain at ≤3/10 and twenty-four (48%) patients rated their pain at ≥3/10. Forty (80%) patients required analgesia in a week following the procedure. Based on complications, there are nineteen (38%) patients had mild bruising. Thirty-one (62%) patients had moderate bruising. In this research there is no patients had severe bruising. Also, none of the patients developed infection and bleeding. All patients were satisfied with this procedure, thirty one (62%) patients were satisfied; 17 (34%) patients said they were very satisfied and two (4%) patients were slightly satisfied with the cosmetic results of this procedure. Forty-six (92%) patients would like to recommend this procedure to others.
CONCLUSION

Although COVID-19 pandemic are days of great uncertainty, it is important to maintain breast disease treatment with good and also safe health infrastructure for patients and healthcare workers. Based on this study, UGVAE under local anesthesia is a procedure which can be a good option to treat suspicious benign lesion during these days, because of short-time procedure, minimal risk of infection after procedure and minimal chance transmission of COVID-19 during and after the procedure by obeying the health protocol of COVID-19.

Keywords: COVID-19 pandemic, benign breast lesion, ultrasound guided, vacuum-assisted excision, UGVAE.