
Response to article by Shoman et al.

In a recently published study by Shoman et al. [1], Nasopore and Merocel placed in a vinyl glove finger were compared as middle meatal spacers applied after functional endoscopic sinus surgery. The evaluation was performed with 30 patients and was focused on postoperative bleeding, wound healing and patient satisfaction. Based on the obtained results, the authors conclude that Nasopore did not significantly reduce the risk of bleeding or patient discomfort compared to the Merocel placed in a vinyl glove finger.

The results, however, were obtained using methods that are questionable to say the least. Nasopore is a biodegradable polyurethane-based nasal dressing, designed to fragment and disappear on its own. The fragmentation time of Nasopore can be accelerated by daily rinsing of the nasal cavity with saline.

The fact that Nasopore is a biodegradable is a very important product feature that distinguishes it from pre-formed non-degradable nasal packings. Consequently, the most important flaw in the design of this study is the fact that Nasopore is suctioned out of the nose 7 days postoperatively. This procedure is not required when using Nasopore, nor is it prescribed by the manufacturer. It may be painful and it is likely to negatively affect postoperative bleeding and mucosal healing. The authors have also provide incomplete information on the type of Nasopore that was applied. The types with a higher density than standard (e.g. Firm and extra Firm) can supply more mechanical support, but also more material needs to be dissolved.

Thirdly, it is unclear why the authors of the study chose to remove the nasal dressing only after 7 days, whereas in practice pre-formed packs are often removed as early as 2 days after surgery. This relatively long period may be advantageous in the prevention of post-removal bleedings and therefore does not correspond to real practice.

In summary, the conclusion of the paper [1] can at least be challenged based on the facts as described above.

Reference

1. N. Shoman, H. Gheriani, D. Flamer, A. Javer, **Prospective, double-blind, randomized trial evaluating patient satisfaction, bleeding, and wound healing using biodegradable synthetic polyurethane foam (NasoPore) as a middle meatal spacer in functional endoscopic sinus surgery**, *J. Otolaryngology*, Vol. 38(1), p112-118, 2009