Is Mehta Casting Effective In Patient's with Infantile Onset Scoliosis and Intrathecal Abnormalities?

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Mehta Casting

- For idiopathic infantile scoliosis
- in 1980, Mehta published series of cast treatment of infantile scoliosis on 136 patients
- Early Casting = Complete Correction
- Later Casting = Decreased Curve Magnitude





Intrathecal Abnormalities

- MRI are routinely performed at time of initial casting
- Typically if found, neurosurgical consultation is obtained prior to casting
- To our knowledge, the treatment effectiveness in patients with idiopathic-like deformity and known intrathecal abnormalities has never been described.



Hypothesis

idiopathic-like infantile-onset scoliosis and **intrathecal abnormalities**

infantile idiopathic scoliosiswithout spinal cord abnormalities

Methods

- IRB approved prospectively collected registry of patients with EOS
- Serial Mehta casting at a single institution between 2006 and 2014
- Demographic and anthropomorphic measurements were collected (see table) as were radiographic parameters

 No MRI, congenital, neuromuscular, or syndromic scoliosis, and less than 2 years follow up

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Patients with at least 2 years f/u

5 patients with isolated syrinx, 1 low lying conus, 1 fibrolipoma, 2 with Chiari 1 Malformation and associated syrinx

Mehta Casting for Infantile Onset Scoliosis With and Without Intrathecal Abnormalities Intrathecal (N = 9) **Idiopathic (N=42)** mean mean std dev std dev pValue (percentage) (percentage) Initial Presentation Patients with at least 2 years follow up 0.75 1.60 1.59 2.31 0.195 Age (yrs) 1.6 4.4 9.5 11.8 0.142 Weight (kg) 6.8 15.8 76.8 85.8 0.122 Height (cm) 7.5 19.3 74.7 87.0 0.172 Armspan (cm) 1.5 2.3 12.9 14.1 0.144 Thoracic Height (cm) 56.0% 39.0% 5 patients 16 patients 0.464 Rib Phase 2* 20.9 11.7 21.6 22.0 0.938 RVAD (deg) 14.2 12.1 52.4 46.4 0.191 Major Cobb (deg)

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Mehta Ca	sting for Infantile	Onset Scoliosis	s With and W	íthout Intrathe	ecal Abnormalities
	Intrathecal (N = 9)		Idiopathic (N=42)		
Most Recent Treatment					
Observation	2 patients	22.2%	16 patients	38.1%	
Observation	4 patients	44.4%	21 patients	50.0%	0.253
Non-operative Bracing	3 natients	22.2%	5 natients	11 9%	
Operative	5 patients	33.370		11.370	

Patients with at least 2 years f/u

Patients with at least 5 years f/u

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4 isolated Syrinx							
Initial Presentation Patients with at least 5 years follow up							
		Intratheca	l (N = 4)	Idiopathic (N=13)			
Age		1.63	0.87	1.95	1.21	0.634	
Weight (kg)		9.8	1.3	10.7	3.6	0.643	
Height (cm)		78.9	6.2	82.3	12.4	0.608	
Armspan (cm)		74.5	5.7	81.9	15.8	0.456	
Thoracic Height (d	cm)	13.0	1.5	14.1	1.3	0.171	
Rib Phase 2*		3 patients	75.0%	4 patients	30.0%	0.250	
RVAD (deg)		15.8	7.5	20.5	11.1	0.436	
Major Cobb (deg)		52.5	13.6	44.3	9.8	0.200	

Patients with at least 5 years f/u

Medical Center

Initial Presentation Patients with at least 5 years follow up								
	Intrathecal (N = 4)		Idiopathic (N=13)					
Most Recent Treatment								
Observation	0 patients	0.0%	4 patients	30.8%				
Non-operative Bracing	2 patients	50.0%	6 patients	46.2%	0.369			
Operative	2 patients	50.0%	3 patients	23.1%				
# of Casts								

Results

- Initial:
 - weight,
 - height,
 - arm span,
 - rib phase,
 - RVAD,
 - major Cobb,
 - thoracic height
- No different between both groups.

- Final:
 - thoracic height,
 - major cobb,
 - number of casts, and
 - final treatment
- No different at 2 and 5 years.
- No neurologic complications occurred in either group.

Limitations

- High variability of pathology
- Small sample size in intrathecal group

Conclusions

- Mehta casting is a proven treatment for patients with infantile onset scoliosis.
- This is the first study looking at its effectiveness in patients with idiopathic-like scoliosis in the setting of MRI-proven intrathecal abnormalities.
- Small series in past have shown that patient with intrathecal abnormalities have higher likelihood to progress to surgery
- This prospective study shows that there is no difference in patients with and without intrathecal abnormalities on overall outcomes, including number of casts, complications, and final treatment at minimum 2 years.