

COMPARATIVE STUDY OF A GASLESS TRANSAXILLARY APPROACH VERSUS A BILATERAL AXILLO-BREAST APPROACH FOR ENDOSCOPIC THYROIDECTOMY IN A SINGLE INSTITUTE

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Background/Purpose: Gasless transaxillary approach (TA) and bilateral axillo-breast approach (BABA) are two distinctive approaches for endoscopic thyroidectomy. The aim of this study was to evaluate and compare these 2 procedures.

Methods: From May 2008 to July 2011, we performed endoscopic hemi-thyroidectomy via gasless TA (83 cases) and BABA (45 cases). The following variables were evaluated: operation time, postoperative pain score, drainage amount, drainage day, postoperative complications, and cosmetic satisfaction score.

Results: There were no significant differences between 2 approaches in terms of clinicopathologic characteristics and surgical outcomes except postoperative pain and cosmetic satisfaction. As for postoperative pain and cosmetic satisfaction, gasless TA group complained of less pain and BABA group had a better cosmetic outcome.

Discussion & Conclusion: These findings will contribute to providing guidelines for assisting surgeons in choosing between gasless TA and BABA techniques for endoscopic thyroidectomy.