Posterior Laryngeal Cleft. Analysis of 23 cases.


**Objectives**

Laryngeal cleft (LC) or laryngotraheoesophageal cleft is a rare congenital malformation between posterior laryngo-tracheal wall and esophagus. The aim of our study is to determine the clinical manifestations, associated malformations, diagnosis, age at surgery, management and outcome.

**Method**

An ambispective review on all patients diagnosed with LC at Sant Joan de Déu Barcelona Children’s Hospital was performed. Since 2014 all patients were attended by our Multidisciplinary Airway Team.

**Results**

The majority of patients with LC have concomitant feeding and respiratory symptoms. Most of our patients underwent surgical endoscopic therapy with favourable outcome, although feeding therapy can be the unique treatment in some patients with type I LC. Worst outcomes were found in patients with esophageal atresia and a history of G-tube feeding, the patient with LC associated to CHARGE syndrome had also poor improvement with endoscopic repair.

**Conclusion**

LC is often associated with other congenital malformations and syndromes. In our series we found an important number of patients with type I LC associated to Down’s syndrome **21%**. Few published series relates this possible association.