

A CASE OF DECOMPRESSION C1 LAMINECTOMY WITHOUT FUSION FOR CRANIOVERTEBRAL JUNCTION STENOSIS WITH MYELOPATHY: A CASE REPORT

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Introduction: Craniovertebral junction (CVJ) stenosis with myelopathy has been treated with transoral approach or occipitocervical/ atlantoaxial fusion with or without posterior decompression. The mortality and morbidity is high in irreducible CVJ lesion with cervicomedullary compression. We describe a case of CVJ stenosis with myelopathy operated on by C1 laminectomy without fusion.

Discussion: The patient as a 61 years old man who presented with craniovertebral junction stenosis causing symptomatic cervical myelopathy. Preoperative magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) showed non enhancing soft tissue lesion around atlantoaxial joint with erosion of posterior dens of axis causing cervicomedullary compression and cord edema. C1 laminectomy without fusion was done in this case. Postoperatively, patient's symptoms of pain and gait instability has improved.

Conclusion: Decompression C1 laminectomy could be a viable option in selected patient with certain indications, especially in elderly, given the risk of other surgical options using an anterior transoral approach or posterior fusion.