A Clinical Study of Phrenic Nerve Paralysis after Surgery for the Oral Cancer

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Phrenic nerve paralysis is a very rare complication after oral cancer surgery. This report describes the case of phrenic nerve paralysis of a 70-year-old woman who underwent mandibulectomy, radical neck dissection, and pectoralis major musculocutaneous flap graft for squamous cell carcinoma in the under gingiva. Three days after the operation, right phrenic nerve paralysis appeared in chest X-ray. However she regained normal function within 17 days.

Key words: phrenic nerve paralysis, oral cancer, radical neck dissection