Chronic Mastectomy Pain Due to Nerve Injury is Easily Diagnosed and Effectively Treated with Intercostal Neurectomy

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Introduction

- 40% of women suffer from chronic post-mastectomy pain
- Cutaneous intercostal sensory nerve injury during mastectomy can lead to neuropathic pain

Methods

- Retrospective review of 5 patients
- History of mastectomy with chronic post-mastectomy pain
- Underwent neurectomy with regenerative peripheral nerve interface (RPNI) or dermatosensory peripheral nerve interface (DSPNI)

Intercostal Nerve Anatomy

Preop and Postop Pain Scores Per Patient

Does neurectomy reduce chronic post-mastectomy pain?

Conclusions

Intercostal cutaneous nerve injury from mastectomy can result in chronic post-mastectomy pain that nerve surgeons can easily diagnose and fix through neurectomy with RPNI or DSPNI

VA S Pain Scores Preop to Postop:

9 → 0

p=0.04, Wilcoxon Signed Rank Test