

CT-guided gastrostomy: inicial experience in a brazilian cancer center

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BACKGROUND: Gastrostomy aims to obtain an definitive access for prolonged enteral nutrition in patients with conditions that do not allow adequate oral nutrition, and thus, are susceptible to malnutrition and nutritional deficits, triggering a further deterioration in the health status. Traditionally, the gastrostomy procedure is performed by endoscopists using fluoroscopy and/or transillumination techniques.

HYPOTHESIS: These techniques present a potential source of difficulty, particularly in the presence of anatomical abnormalities in the upper aerodigestive tract since large tumor masses or stenotic lesions may block the device passage. In this group of patients, CT-guided gastrostomy presents as an effective alternative therapy with high success rates and without increased number of complications.

METHODS: In this study is exposed the technique used in three cases in which patients underwent CT-guided percutaneous gastrostomy after endoscopic unsuccessful attempts. The procedures were successful, with no significant complications.

RESULTS: The CT-guided gastrostomy is a safe procedure with low complication rates. Despite being a relatively new technique in Brazil, there is an increasing demand, particularly in specialized centers for the treatment of head and neck tumors.