

## **Spinal cord dysfunction and quadriplegia following tracheal resection- a rare complication**

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**Introduction:** Tracheal stenosis is narrowing of the windpipe which can occur after radiation therapy, prolonged use of a endotracheal tube or rarely, be congenital. Tracheal resection and primary reanastomosis for tracheal tumors and stenosis is a well-described procedure. Common complications of this procedure include Bleeding, infection airway edema, pulmonary insufficiency, recurrent laryngeal nerve injury, anastomotic dehiscence, fistula, leak and stenosis. We report a case of a 16 year-old male who suffered permanent quadriplegia following tracheal resection.

### **Methods:**

Case Report and Literature Review.

We searched PUBMED using the words 'tracheal resection + paraplegia' 'tracheal resection + quadriplegia'. All the relevant articles were thoroughly reviewed.

### **Objectives:**

To report on a young male who developed quadriplegia after surgery to relieve tracheal (subglottic) stenosis.

**Conclusion:** Quadriplegia/ Paraplegia after tracheal resection is an extremely 'rare but there' complication of tracheal resection. Different methods may be used to relieve the tension on the anastomotic site and the most appropriate method must be determined. A daily postoperative neurological examination should be performed in these patients. Immediate MRI should be performed if any abnormal findings are seen to verify the diagnosis. Quadriplegia in this setting likely resulted from compromised blood supply, concomitant edema, hemorrhage (as in this case, although the cause of hemorrhage is not known) or even traction (Breig<sup>9</sup>) however, the exact cause of injury remains unclear.