CHRONIC POST THORACOTOMY PAIN SYNDROME

Dr. Mohammad Yosry, MD
A. Professor of Algology & Anesthesia Faculty of medicine Cairo University, Egypt

Chronic post surgical pain syndromes are very common complaints of many patients. It is common and sever after different surgeries as amputations, cesarean section or hernia repair but the most common and sever is chronic post thoracotomy pain syndrome. Although it performs a very pig problem but still research work is very deficient for treating this issue. Chronic post-thoracotomy pain syndrome is defined as pain that recurs or persists along a thoracotomy incision for at least 2 months following surgery. It detected for the first time by United States Army surgeons in the 2nd world war. Now, it is a Separate disease that needs management by itself with prevalence of 11–80% of post thoracotomy patients. It is the commonest complication of thoracotomy and rarely mentioned in the medical literature so, it needs further work. No one technique of thoracotomy has been shown to reduce the incidence of chronic post thoracotomy pain. As any neuropathic pain; treatment is difficult and unsatisfactory. Early referral to pain management specialists is recommended once malignancy recurrence has been excluded. In the first instance, treatment includes; NSAIDs, tricyclic antidepressants, antiepileptics, opioids. IF FAILED, Intercostal nerve blocks, epidural analgesia, sympathectomy, spinal cord stimulation are of value. Recent techniques is Thoracic transforaminal Injections and Radiofrequency Nerve Ablation are the most successful methods.