

Combined approaches to the parotid gland and Stensen's duct in sialolithiasis

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Sialolithiasis of the parotid gland and Stensen's duct presents unique diagnostic and therapeutic challenges due to the anatomical complexity and proximity to the facial nerve. Unlike submandibular stones, which are more common and often accessible via a single approach, parotid stones frequently require a tailored, combined strategy for effective management. This lecture will present clinical experience and surgical techniques involving combined approaches to the parotid gland and Stensen's duct in the treatment of sialolithiasis. These include transoral access for distal ductal stones and preauricular or transparotid access for proximal or intraglandular stones. Integration of sialendoscopy in selected cases enhances precision and allows for minimally invasive stone retrieval while preserving gland function. The focus will be on patient selection, surgical planning, intraoperative decision-making, and management of potential complications. Through case examples and intraoperative photos, the lecture will highlight key anatomical considerations, surgical landmarks, and techniques to minimize the risk of facial nerve injury. Participants will gain practical insights into when and how to employ a combined approach, the role of imaging in preoperative assessment, and strategies for improving outcomes in complex cases of parotid sialolithiasis. The session is intended for otolaryngologists and head and neck surgeons seeking to expand their skills in salivary gland surgery, especially in the era of function-preserving techniques.

Key words: Sialolithiasis, Combined Approach, Parotid Gland