Vocal Fold Submucosal Infusion Technique in Phonomicrosurgery

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The authors describe a technique of infusing 1 ml (typically) to 3ml (occasionally) of saline and 1/10000 epinephrine into the superficial lamina propria of the vocal fold. A specialised needle attached to a 3ml Luer-lock syringe was used to enhance the surgery in 75 vocal fold procedures. The authors concluded in this retrospective review that the infusion helped by vasoconstriction of the microvasculature and improved visualisation during cold instrument tangential dissection. This technique also helped in preserving uninvolved epithelium.

In days where stripping of the vocal folds is legally indefensible (unfortunately still practised by some) any technique that helps preserve the vocal fold's layered microstructure is welcome. In patients with cardiac problems this technique may be unsuitable, the authors advocate a dilution of 1/200 000 epinephrine.

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Congratulations!

Dr. Santanu Banerjee has been invited to deliver Key Note address in the International symposium on 'Metastases in Head and Neck Cancer' to be held at Kiel, Germany between January 15-18, 1998.