INTRODUCTION

The patients with revision surgery have had single or multiple failures in the past and they are still high-risk patients for graft uptake. During revision surgery, surgeons opt for various graft materials, some for temporalis fascia again in the revision cases and others for cartilage graft.6 Some surgeons support the addition of cortical mastoidectomy in addition to myringoplasty for the revision cases or other high-risk patients to improve the graft uptake rate.7,8

The limited availability of the literatures reporting on the graft uptake result after revision myringoplasty point out on the lesser graft uptake after revision surgery.9 The present study is undertaken to study the graft uptake and hearing after revision myringoplasty.
hearing status after revision myringoplasty in a tertiary center.

METHODS

The study was undertaken in the Department of ENT and Head and Neck Surgery, Tribhuvan University teaching hospital from December 2015 to 2019. Ethical approval was taken from the Institutional Review Committee of the institution. The retrospective data was collected of all the patients who had undergone revision surgery in the department done by multiple surgeons.

All the patients above 15 years, who had graft uptake failure once or more than once, needing revision myringoplasty were included in the study. The pure tone audiogram done within the last one month before the surgery were included for the preoperative hearing evaluation. The revision surgeries were done by multiple surgeons. Choice of the graft material, approach and the type of surgery depended on the choice of the surgeon. The various materials used for the graft was temporalis fascia and tragal cartilage. Most of the surgery was by permeatal approach followed by postaural approach. Technique of graft placement was Underlay in all the cases thus allowing the assessment of the middle ear and the ossicles in all.

The patients were kept on oral ciprofloxacin for seven days postoperatively and the ear pack kept was removed on suture removal day usually on the sixth postoperative day. Betamethasone-neomycin ear drops was given for two weeks and the patients were called for follow-up after a minimum period of six weeks for graft take-up status and hearing assessment. Total graft take without any residual perforation was regarded as successful graft uptake. For hearing assessment average of four frequency (500, 1000, 2000, and 4000 Hz) air bone gap and air conduction threshold were used to compare the results between pre- and post-operatively. The air bone gap taken was the difference in the preoperative bone conduction and postoperative air conduction threshold.

Statistical analysis was performed using SPSS 22 version. The graft uptake difference in the temporalis fascia and tragal cartilage graft group was calculated using chi-square test. The AC threshold and AB gap was analysed using student t-test. The p value less than 0.05 was taken as statistically significant difference.

RESULTS

Total of forty-two patients above fifteen years who had undergone revision myringoplasty were analysed in the study. All the operations were done under local anesthesia. The male to female distribution in the study was as shown in (Figure 1) with male predominance and ratio of 1.47:1. The maximum number of the patients were in the age group of 15-30 years age group pointing towards the most active age group. Rarely the patients above 45 years of age had the surgery as shown in (Figure 2).

Twenty-eight of the patients had the revision surgery by permeatal approach and remaining fourteen of them had post-aural approach. This was strictly the surgeons’ choice. Generally, the department follows the permeatal route in maximum number of patients and post-aural approach is done where the anterior rim of the perforation is not visualized easily.
Thirty-nine patient underwent revision myringoplasty only and the remaining three patients had revision myringoplasty with cortical mastoidectomy. Maximum number of the patients had temporalis fascia as the graft material and the rest had tragal cartilage myringoplasty as shown in (Figure 3).

Graft placement in all the patients were by underlay approach, thus middle ear was assessed in all. The ossicular chain was assessed in forty patients and remaining two patients it was not assessed due to the posterior canal wall bony overhang. The ossicular chain finding in the middle ear is as shown in (Table 1). For the fixed and restricted ossicular chain, mostly due to tympanosclerosis, nothing was done surgically. For the cases with dislocated/ necrosed case; both of them had eroded long and lenticular process of the incus. Thus, one of them had partial ossicular replacement prosthesis with conchal cartilage augmentation ossiculoplasty and the other patient had interposition cartilage ossiculoplasty.

Post-operatively, the graft uptake rate of the patients was 86%. One among the three revision myringoplasty with cortical mastoidectomy had graft uptake failure. Among the graft material used the uptake was better in the cartilage myringoplasty as shown in (Table 2) though not statistically significant.

Regarding the post-operative hearing assessment, the evaluation was done by improvement of AC threshold and AB gap improvement postoperatively as shown in table III and IV. In comparison of the pre and postoperative threshold the mean difference was significant in both AC threshold and AB gap improvement. Thus, by audiological reports all the patients had hearing improvement and there was no patient with complication of postoperative sensorineural hearing loss.

**DISCUSSION**

This retrospective, observational study was conducted in a single institute for a period of four years. The surgeries were performed by multiple surgeons with the mean follow-up period of eight weeks. Short term follow-up period was one of the drawbacks of the study. Various studies stress on the importance of the long-term follow-up indicating the true graft uptake picture. Mokhtarinejad et al in their study had a long-term follow-up of 1.6 to 2.4 years period after his primary myringoplasty surgery.

The commonest age group operated in our study was 15-30 years age group stressing on the fact of the active age group concerned with the ear discharge and hearing loss. The approach of revision surgery in our case was permeatal followed by the post-aural approach. This was strictly the surgeons’ choice and moreover the post-aural approach was done when the anterior margin of the perforation was not visualized easily on otoscopy. Aviles et al mentioned the significant difference in the graft uptake according to the approach of the surgery whereas other authors like Dangol et al and Niazi et al found no significant difference in the uptake with relation to the approach of the surgery.

Primary myringoplasty is relatively a safe surgery with variable success rate usually above 80% as mentioned by

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**Table 2: Graft uptake according to the graft material.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Graft material</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Uptake</th>
<th>Residual perforation</th>
<th>Graft uptake (%)</th>
<th>P value by Chi-square test</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Temporalis fascia</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>84</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tragal cartilage</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>0.43 (not significant)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>86</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 3: Mean post-operative hearing assessment by AC threshold (n=42).**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency (Hz)</th>
<th>Mean pre-operative AC</th>
<th>Mean post-operative AC</th>
<th>P value by student t-test</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>500</td>
<td>42.34±5.78 dB</td>
<td>34.67±4.76 dB</td>
<td>0.029</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1000</td>
<td>40.47±4.52 dB</td>
<td>32.56±5.88 dB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>30.58±6.99 dB</td>
<td>22.78±7.66 dB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3000</td>
<td>38.42±5.44 dB</td>
<td>27.42±6.84 dB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 4: Mean post-operative hearing assessment by AB gap (n=42).**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency (Hz)</th>
<th>Mean pre-operative AB gap</th>
<th>Mean post-operative AB gap</th>
<th>P value by student t-test</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>500</td>
<td>36.58±6.78 dB</td>
<td>28.76±6.82 dB</td>
<td>0.034</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1000</td>
<td>30.47±7.54 dB</td>
<td>22.67±7.46 dB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>24.34±8.78 dB</td>
<td>16.28±8.92 dB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3000</td>
<td>28.51±9.56 dB</td>
<td>19.69±3.54 dB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Westerberg in their long-term series of ten years. Some authors also quote very high success rate as 94-97% in their series. Compared to the primary surgery, the revision surgery holds a lesser graft uptake rate. The patients have also experienced failure of graft uptake once or twice and thus making it a challenge for the surgeons. Various studies have mentioned graft uptake rate comparable to our present study. Altuna et al in their study have mentioned 67% graft uptake in their sample of sixty patients. Prinsley et al had 92% graft uptake in their large series of patients followed up after three months of surgery. These is less graft uptake rate as compared to primary surgery using cartilage as mentioned in the study by Veeranjaneyulu et al.

Our studies mention the use of either tragal cartilage or temporalis fascia as the graft material with no statistically significant difference in the graft uptake rate though the cartilage myringoplasty showed a relatively better uptake rate. Since its advent many surgeons have been following cartilage myringoplasty in difficult perforations and high-risk perforations cases. Many authors have mentioned in their studies the use of cartilage in revision surgeries. They have mentioned the advantage of cartilage being more robust and stiffer increasing its likelihood of successful uptake in high risk perforations. Authors have mentioned the ability of the cartilage to derive its nutrition by diffusion thus making it able to survive better in lack of vascularization and infection.

Our institution routinely follows fascia myringoplasty in majority. Cartilage myringoplasty is usually done in revision patients or high-risk perforations. Though our present study mentions the slightly better uptake in cartilage grafts but we don’t have the case control study in higher number of patients to significantly study the difference of fascia versus cartilage myringoplasty.

Three patients in our study had undergone myringoplasty with cortical mastoidectomy in our study. It was the surgeons’ choice to include the cortical mastoidectomy for the revision myringoplasty. The rationale given for this was the suspicion of the aditus blockage to be opened by performing cortical mastoidectomy. Swamy et al. mentioned the higher graft uptake of myringoplasty with cortical mastoidectomy only in wet cases but similar result compared to myringoplasty only in dry cases. Alb et al and Ramakrishnan et al also mentioned that addition of cortical mastoidectomy had no extra advantage in graft uptake rate. Sample in our present study is very low to compare the significant difference in patients undergoing myringoplasty with or without cortical mastoidectomy.

The patients undergoing revision surgery in our study showed significant hearing improvement after revision surgery. The hearing improvement after surgery was irrespective of the type of surgery and the graft material. Our study had assessed the hearing by improvement in AC threshold and AB gap improvement. Different literature mentions the assessment of hearing by AC threshold, AB gap improvement and also by AB gap closure. Altuna et al, Moore and Kirazli et al have shown similar improvement in hearing postoperatively in their cartilage revision myringoplasty.

Thus, our study further stresses its graft uptake of revision myringoplasty to be comparable to the other literatures. There are limitations like multiple surgeons, lesser number of sample size, short term follow-up period in our study. Randomized control trial comparing the cartilage and fascia revision myringoplasty and larger sample size can provide us with more consistent results.

**CONCLUSION**

The graft uptake rate after revision myringoplasty in our tertiary centre is 86%. The short term hearing assessment by AC threshold and AB gap improvement showed significant hearing improvement after revision myringoplasty.

**Funding:** No funding sources  
**Conflict of interest:** None declared  
**Ethical approval:** The study was approved by the institutional ethics committee

**REFERENCES**
