

Benign Lesions of Larynx – A Clinicopathological Study

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Abstract:

Objective: Study was embarked upon to study the incidence of various types of benign lesions of larynx and their modes of clinical presentation, etiological factors and correlate the clinical and histopathological diagnosis.

Patients: A total of 40 patients with benign laryngeal lesions were involved in the study with Hoarseness/change in voice; difficulty in breathing; foreign body sensation in the throat; pain on speaking and fatigue of voice and common cold; the findings were correlated with indirect laryngoscopy;. The patients were in the age group of 9-62 years. Patients with clinical diagnosis of malignancy of larynx; all cases with inflammatory lesions; patients with speech defect due to central nervous system (CNS) lesions; patients with oral and pharyngeal pathology; and cases with nasal and nasopharyngeal pathology, were excluded from the study.

Results: Male preponderance was seen i.e. 25 cases (62.5%) with male to female ratio 1.67:1. Most patients constituted the age group 21-30 years. Vocal Cord nodules were found to be the most common type of lesion with 18 cases (45 %). Housewives were found to be the most afflicted group 10 cases (25 %). Vocal Abuse was found to be most common predisposing factor 25 cases (62.5 %) and most common presenting symptom was Hoarseness of Voice (100 %).

Keywords: benign lesions larynx, clinicopathological, histopathological, hoarsness of voice, microlaryngoscopic examination, , vocal cord nodule, vocal cord polyp

I. Introduction

Voice is the natural medium well adapted to communicate emotional content, whereas speech is a cultural medium that is suitable to convey intellectual content. Speech may be used to express feelings but also to hide, disguise or deny them.¹

Only vertebrates with their thoracoabdominal diaphragms are able to use their larynges as flutter valves; altering air flow from their respiratory bellows to produce sound. The production of sound for communication of complex information is limited highest orders.² Although rarely life threatening, voice problems can cause tremendous alteration in daily living and should not be underestimated as a medical disorder.³

Voice disorder can have a significant influence on vocational, social and the emotional adjustment of patients. Physicians particularly otolaryngologists, usually are first person approached when voice sounds abnormal. Benign neoplasms of the larynx constitute an interesting array of lesions and have been defined as "An abnormal mass of tissue in the larynx, the growth of which exceeds and is uncoordinated with that of normal tissue and persists in the same excessive manner after cessation of stimuli which evoked the change".⁴

Recently benign lesions of larynx are becoming quite common because of increased environmental pollution due to rapid industrialization and development. The incidence has increase also because of talking loudly in noisy area in routine. Benign lesions of larynx are fairly common problem in ENT. The vocal cord have got a vital function of voice production and facilitate communication. Any lesion of it causes disturbance in routine life of person not only because of early prejudice of the airway but also because of the interference with the function in some cases. Some cases of benign lesions also present with anomalous features like that of malignant lesion. So it is very essential to diagnose and treat such problem effectively in time by knowing all details about it.⁵

II. Aims And Objectives

The aims and objectives of this study were to study the incidence of various types of benign lesions of larynx and the various modes of clinical presentation, to evaluate the etiological factors of benign lesion of larynx. And correlate the clinical and histopathological diagnosis.

III. Material & Methods

Patients having signs and symptoms related to laryngeal disorders were selected after provisional diagnosis of benign lesion of larynx in E.N.T. OPD for direct laryngoscopy and microlaryngoscopic examination.

The patients were selected on the basis of the following inclusion and exclusion criteria. Inclusion criteria: Hoarseness/change in voice; difficulty in breathing; foreign body sensation in the throat; pain on speaking and fatigue of voice; common cold and the findings were correlated with indirect laryngoscopy; Exclusion criteria: Patients with clinical diagnosis of malignancy of larynx; all cases with inflammatory lesions; patients with speech defect due to central nervous system (CNS) lesions; patients with oral and pharyngeal pathology; and cases with nasal and nasopharyngeal pathology.

The record of details of symptomatology, investigation and management of the cases was kept with a particular consideration of the following points. Age, sex, occupation and address. Symptoms of the patients; Change in voice / hoarseness of voice Inability to raise the voice, Foreign body sensation in the throat, Easy fatigability of the voice, Discomfort in throat, Breathlessness / stridor, Persistent or irritant cough with or without expectoration. Personal history of the patient; Vocal abuse / misuse of voice, Exposure to irritant atmosphere (industrial exposure), Smoking and tobacco chewing, betel nut and pan chewing, exposure to venereal diseases. Past history; Tuberculosis, Leprosy, Syphilis, Septic focus in E.N.T., such as chronic tonsillitis, sinusitis etc. General and systemic examination of the patient.

Detailed routine ear, nose and throat examination of the patient with indirect laryngoscopy or video laryngoscopy with angled scope in difficult cases and examination of the neck. The provisional diagnosis was made with this data

IV. Results And Observations

The 40 patients underwent detailed clinical examination and Histopathological examination. The biopsy specimens were examined at Dept. of Pathology Dr. V. M. Govt Medical College Solapur

Age & Sex

Benign lesions of larynx were found more commonly in males i.e. 25 cases (62.5%) with male to female ratio being 1.67:1. The maximum number of cases were between 21-50 years i.e. 33 cases (82.5%) in which maximum number were between 21-30 years i.e. 15 cases (37.5%). The incidence found to be decreasing below and above 20 and 50 years respectively. The youngest patient was 9 year old and the oldest was of 62 years.

Occupation

Maximum number of cases were found to be housewife i.e. 10 cases (25%), followed by teachers (15%), students (12.5%), singers and hawkers forming other common group of patient with benign lesions of larynx in that order.

Predisposing Factors

Vocal overuse or vocal abuse was found to be commonest habit both in males and females i.e. total 25 cases (62.5%) followed by use of other tobacco preparation (37.5 %) other than cigarette and bidi, smoking and alcohol consumption (20 %) in that order were found to be other common habits predominantly in males. 7 cases were not giving any history of habits (5 male; 2 female), those constituted 2 cases of laryngeal papillomatosis, 2 cases of vocal nodules and 1 case each of rhinoscleroma (scleroma of larynx, vocal polyp and chronic laryngitis).

Symptoms

Change in voice or hoarseness of voice was the commonest symptom found in 40 (100%) cases followed by voice fatiguability (48.5 %) as second most common symptom. Few patients also had other symptoms like cough/repeated attacks of upper respiratory tract infection (32.5%), discomfort in throat (22.5%), foreign body sensation in throat (10%), throat pain (15%) and inability to raise voice; but these symptoms were less frequent. One case also presented with dyspnoea.

Incidence of Various Benign Lesions

Maximum number of cases were found to be of vocal cord nodule i.e. 18 cases (45%) followed by vocal cord polyp i.e. 11 cases (27.5%) and couple of cases of vocal cord cyst, chronic laryngitis, reinke's oedema, vocal cord keratosis and laryngeal papillomatosis each and one case of rhinoscleroma (Scleroma of larynx).

V. Discussion

Benign lesions of larynx are significant because of the importance of spoken or sung communication and the voice's contribution to identity. Benign laryngeal lesions are not a rare entity. It may be large enough to obstruct the airway and threaten the life of an individual or may produce hoarseness of voice, jeopardizing the livelihood of same.⁵

Majority of the results of our study were in concurrence with results of similar study.

Age & Sex

In our study, age of patient with benign lesion of larynx ranged from 9 yrs. to 62 yrs. with majority of patients were in the age group of 21-30 yrs. (i.e. 15 cases; 37.5%) followed by age group 31-40 yrs. (i.e. 13 case; 32.5%) with minimum number cases in age group of 1-10 yrs, 51-60 yrs. and > 60 yrs. (i.e. 1 case each). These results of agewise distribution of cases were comparable to other similar studies done by Singhalet al⁹; Swapan Ghosh et al⁶ and Baitha et al¹¹.

In our study 85% of cases were found in age group of 20-50 yrs. which was comparable to other similar studies done by Chopra H. and Kapoor M⁵.

In our study, benign lesions of larynx were found to be more common in male (i.e. 24 cases; 62.5%) than in female (i.e. 15 cases; 37.5%); These results were comparable with the other study by Wani et al⁷.

In our study, vocal nodule was the only benign lesion in which there was female preponderance while in vocal cord cyst and chronic laryngitis, male and female had equal distribution of cases. Vocal cord polyp, reinke's oedema, keratosis, rhinoscleroma (scleroma of larynx) were more common in males.

Occupation

In our study, majority of patient were housewife (i.e. 10 case; 25%) followed by other professional voice users like teacher (6 case; 15%) student (5 cases; 12.5%) singers (5 cases; 12.5%) and hawkers (5 cases; 12.5%).

These findings were comparable with the other similar studies by Chopra H. and Kapoor M. et al⁵ and Swapan Ghosh et al⁶. In study by Chopra H., Kapoor M.⁵ et al there were 25.37% patient were housewives; 10.45% patient were teacher, 12% patient were student and 5.9% patient were hawker while in study by Swapan Ghosh et al⁶ housewives comprised major group of study with 29% of all patient followed by student (16%); teacher (6%) and singer (5%).

In our study, other observed occupation were labourers (4 cases ; 10%); Auto driver (2 cases; 5%); LIC agent, bus conductor and social worker (1 case each; 2.5% each). Although the number of male patients in the study were more by occupational incidence in females was found to be significantly larger housewives (10 cases 25 %), teacher (6 cases 15 %), concordance with Chopra H. and Kapoor M. et al⁵ and Swapan Ghosh et al⁶.

Habits

In our study commonest habit noted was vocal overuse or vocal abuse observed in 25 case i.e. 62.5% of all cases; this finding was comparable with other similar study by Swapan Ghosh et al⁶ (72% patient with vocal abuse/overuse); Wani et al⁷ study (45%) and Parikh N. P.⁸ (56%). Second most common habit observed was use of tobacco preparation other than smoking like chewing of tobacco, pan, mishri etc. which was observed in 15 case (37.5%), out of 15 cases, 2 were female. Other habit like smoking was observed in 11 cases (27.5%); finding was comparable with study by Wani and et al⁷, and alcoholism was found in 8 case (20%).

7 patients did not give history of any habits out of which 2 were females and 5 were males. These constitute 2 cases of laryngeal papillomatosis, 2 cases of vocal nodule and 1 case of each of rhinoscleroma (scleroma of larynx), vocal polyp and chronic laryngitis.

Clinical Presentation

Change in voice or Hoarseness of voice was found to be most common presenting symptoms i.e. in all 40 cases (100%) in our study, comparable to other similar studies by Singhalet al⁹, Pankaj Kumar Doloi and Swagata Khanna¹⁰, Baitha et al¹¹ and Hegade et al¹². Voice fatigue was observed to be second most common symptom (in 19 patient i.e. 48.5%) in our study which was comparable to the study by Singhal et al⁹ and Pankaj Kumar Doloi and Swagata Khanna¹⁰. 13 patients i.e. 32.5% of patients were also complained of cough or repeated attacks of upper respiratory tract infection; this finding was comparable with the study Singhal et al⁹, Pankaj Kumar Doloi and Swagata Khanna¹⁰, Baitha et al¹¹ and Hegade et al¹². Discomfort in throat was complained by 9 patient i.e. 22.5% of patient in our study which was comparable with the findings of other study by Singhalet al⁹, Baitha et al¹¹ and Wani et al⁷. Throat pain was observed in 6 patient i.e. 15% of all patient in our study, these finding were comparable with the findings in other studies by Singhalet al⁹, Wani et al⁷, Baitha et al¹¹ and Hegade et al¹². 4 patient i.e. 10% of all cases in our study also complained of foreign body

sensation in throat; this finding were comparable with the findings in other study by Singhal et al⁹, Pankaj Kumar Doloi and Swagata Khanna¹⁰, Wani et al⁷ and Hegade et al¹². 1 patient (2.5%) of our study with diagnosis of Reinke's oedema also complained of inability to raise voice and 1 patient of rhinoscleroma (scleroma of larynx) also complained of dyspnoea or stridor in our study.

VI. Conclusion

The benign laryngeal lesions produces symptoms which range from hoarseness in voice to life threatening respiratory distress. These can put a lot of cost and disability burden on professional voice users, also create lot of emotional and mental tension in lives of patient and patient's families. All the available methods of study should be utilized to make the diagnosis as early as possible. Early diagnosis can alleviate a lot of aforementioned ills for the patient and their families. As such, the standard treatment of choice in all types of benign tumors of larynx should consist microlaryngeal surgery, voice rest and voice rehabilitation

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Images

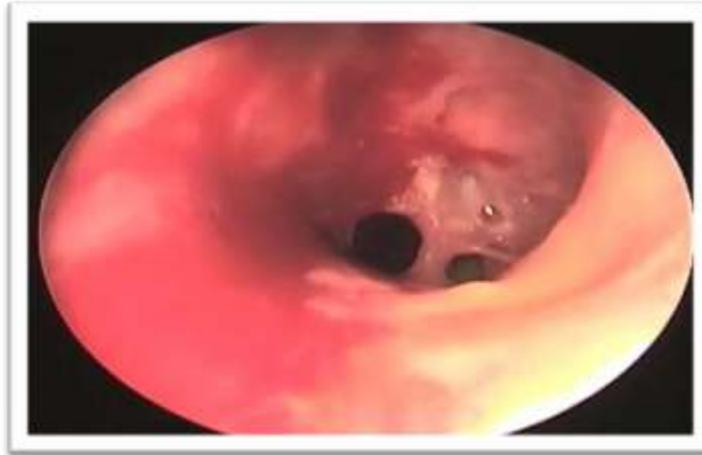
Vocal Cord Nodule



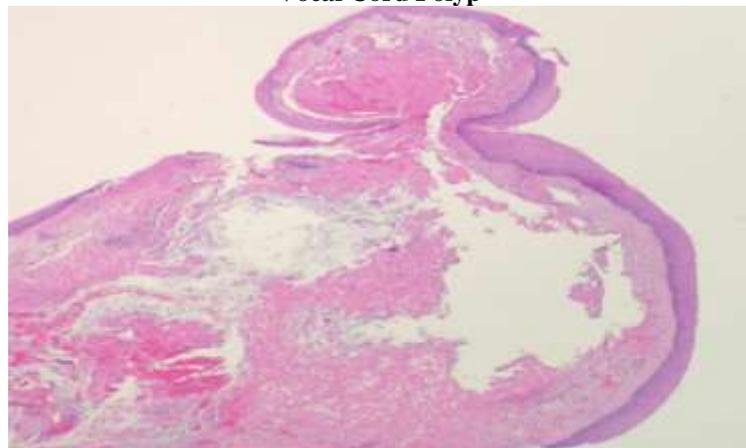
Vocal Cord Polyp



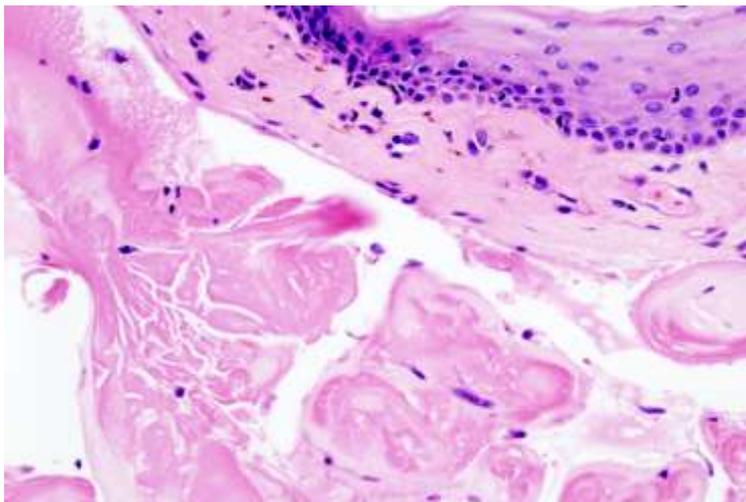
Rhinoscleroma (ScleromaOf Larynx)



Vocal Cord Polyp



Vocal Nodule



Charts And Tables

Table no. 1-Showing sex wise distribution of cases of benign lesions of larynx

SEX	NO. OF CASES OF BENIGN LESIONS OF LARYNX	
	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
MALE	25	62.5
FEMALE	15	37.5
TOTAL	40	100

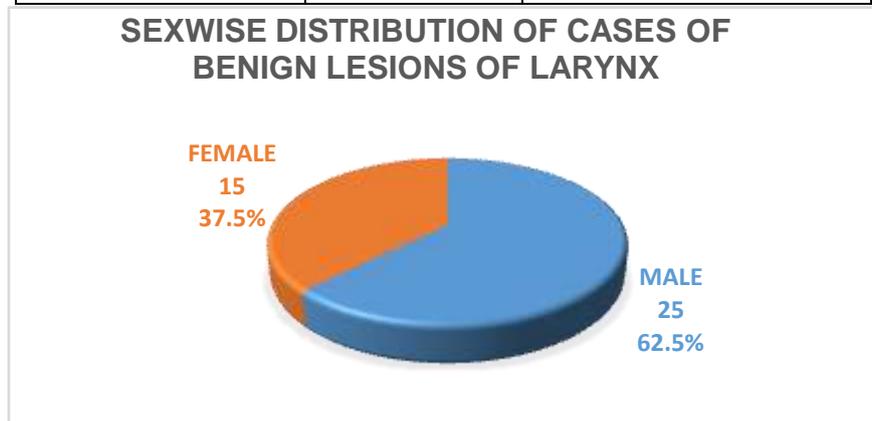


Table No. 2 :Showing age wise distribution of cases of benign lesions Larynx

AGE IN YEARS	NUMBER OF CASES OF BENIGN LESIONS	
	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
< 10 yrs	01	2.5
11-20	04	10
21-30	15	37.5
31-40	13	32.5
41-50	05	12.5
51-60	01	2.5
61-70	01	2.5
TOTAL	40	100

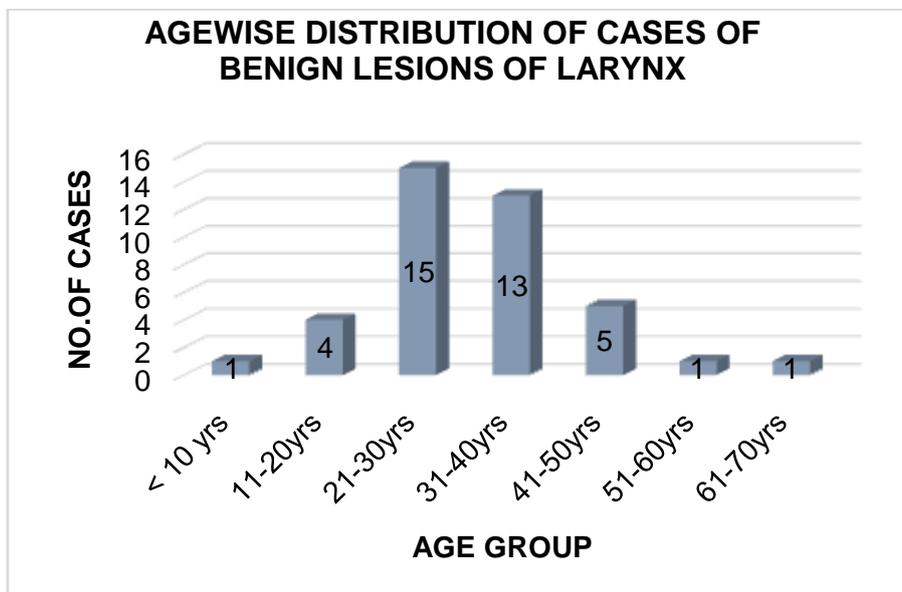


Table no. 3 :Incidence of benign lesions of larynx in male and female

Sr. No.	CLINICAL DIAGNOSIS	NO.OF MALES	NO.OF FEMALES	TOTAL	%
1	VOCAL CORD NODULE	08	10	18	45
2	VOCAL CORD POLYP	08	03	11	27.5
3	VOCAL CORD CYST	01	01	02	5.0
4	CHRONIC LARYNGITIS	01	01	02	5.0

5	REINKES OEDEMA	02	00	02	5.0
6	VOCAL CORD KERATOSIS	02	00	02	5.0
7	LARYNGEAL PAPILLOMATOSIS	02	00	02	5.0
8	RHINOSCLEROMA (SCLEROMA OF LARYNX)	01	00	01	2.5
TOTAL		25	15	40	100

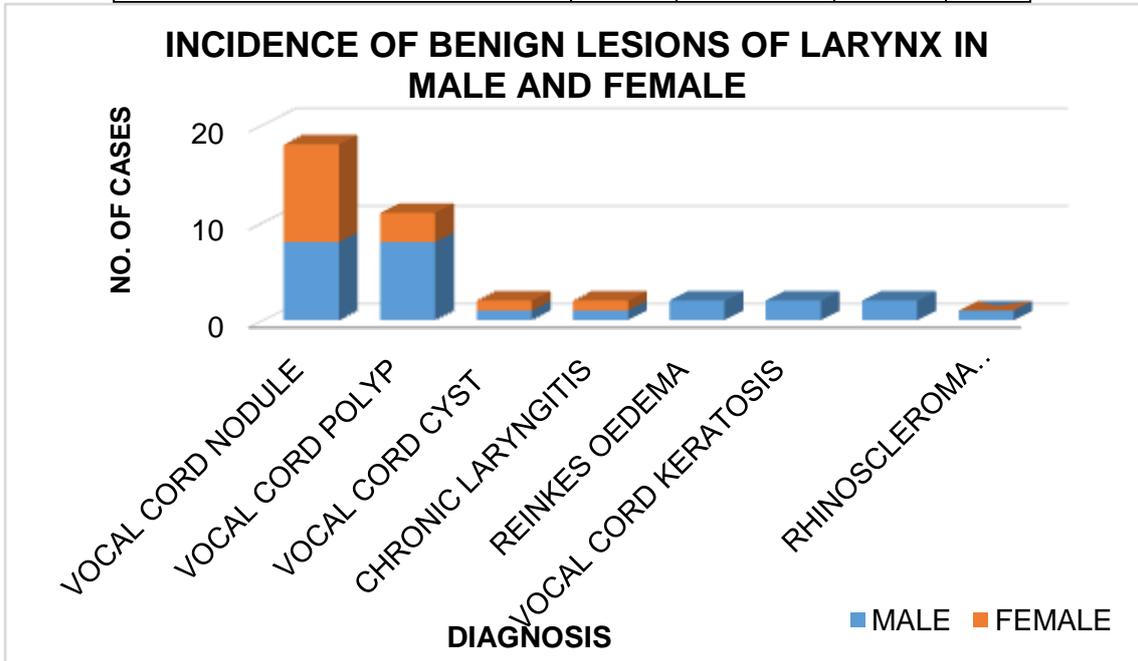


Table no. 4 :Showing distribution of cases according to symptoms

SR. NO.	SYMPTOMS	NO.OF CASES	PERCENTAGE
1	CHANGE IN VOICE/HOARSENESS OF VOICE	40	100
2	FATIGUE OF VOICE	19	48.5
3	COUGH / REPEATED ATTACKS OF URTI	13	32.5
4	IRRITATION / DISCOMFORT IN THROAT	09	22.5
5	F.B. SENSATION IN THROAT	04	10.0
6	THROAT PAIN	06	15.0
7	INABILITY TO RAISE VOICE	01	2.5
8	DYSPNOEA / STRIDOR	01	2.5

Table No. 5 :Showing distribution of cases according to habits

HABITS	NO.OF MALES		NO.OF FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NUMBER	%	NUMBER	%	NUMBER	%
SMOKING	11	27.5	00	00	11	27.5
OTHER TOBACCO PREPARATION (GUTAKHA, PAN, MISHRI, ETC)	12	30	03	7.5	15	37.5
ALCOHOL	08	20	00	00	08	20
VOCAL OVERUSE/ABUSE	13	32.5	12	30	25	62.5
NO HABITS	05	12.5	02	05	07	17.5

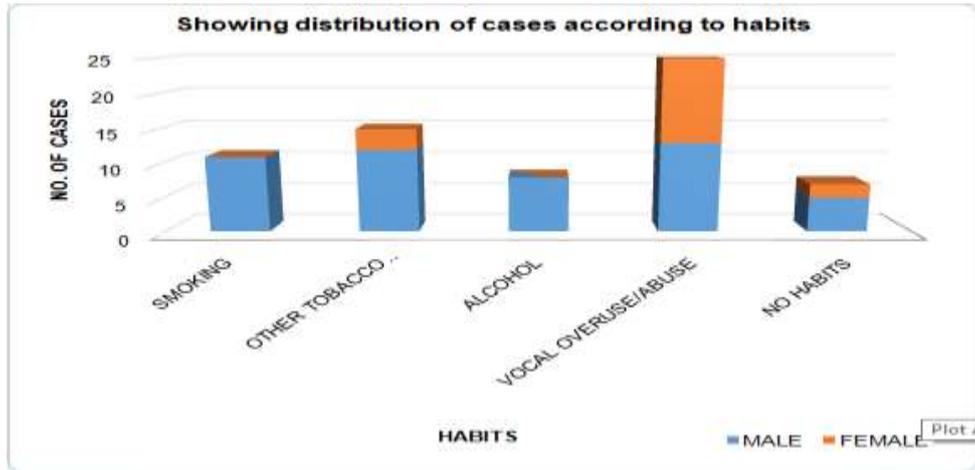


Table No. 6 :Showing distribution of cases of benign lesions of larynx according to occupation

SR.NO	OCCUPATION	NO.OF CASES	PERCENTAGE
1	HOUSEWIFE	10	25
2	TEACHER	06	15
3	STUDENT	05	12.5
4	SINGER	05	12.5
5	HAWKERS	05	12.5
6	LABOURER	04	10
7	OTHER (SOCIAL WORKER, LIC AGENT, BUS CONDUCTOR, AUTO DRIVER)	05	12.5
	TOTAL	40	100

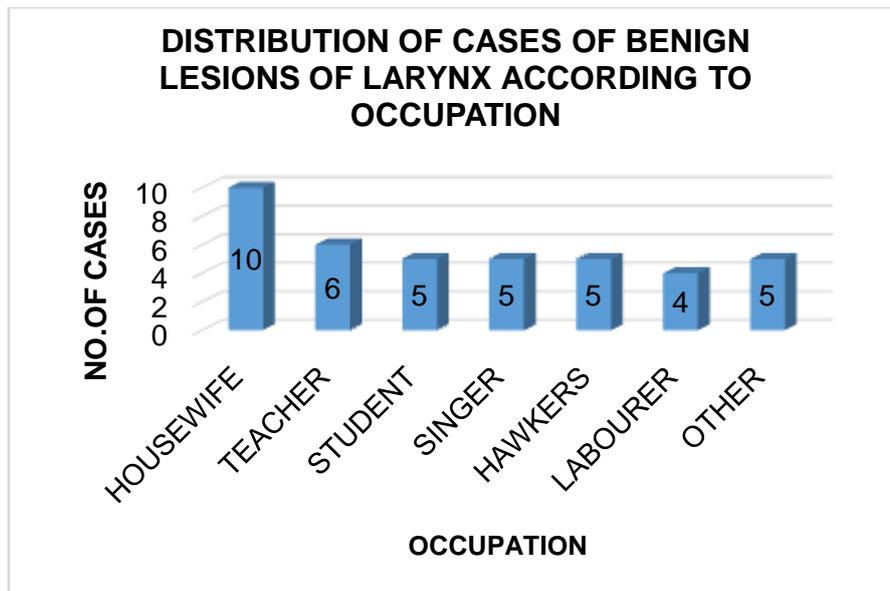
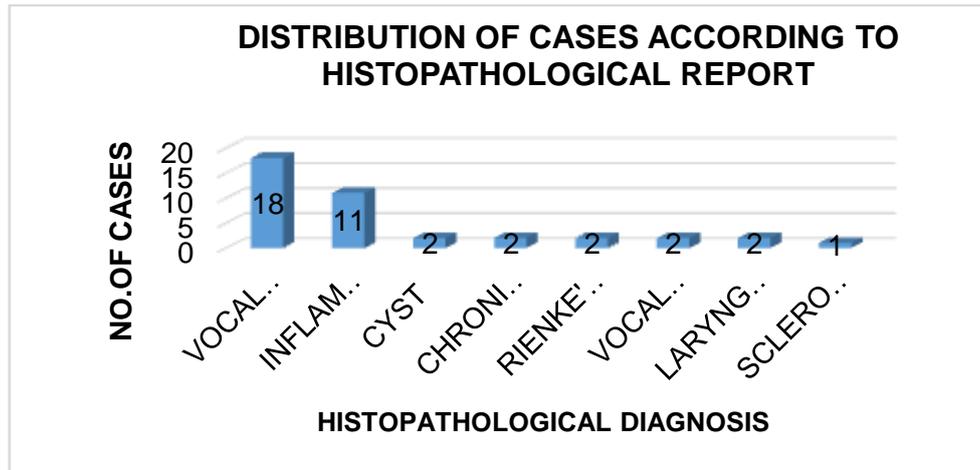


Table no. 8 :Showing distribution of cases according to histopathological report

SR. NO.	HISTOPATHOLOGICAL DIAGNOSIS	NO.OF CASES
1	Epithelial hyperplasia with subepithelial fibrous tissue suggestive of vocal nodule	18
2	Inflammatory polyp	11
3	Cyst	02
4	Epithelial hyperplasia with dilated vessels and mononuclear cell infiltration suggestive of chronic laryngitis	02
5	Edema of subepithelial space suggestive of rienke’s edema	02
6	Vocal cord keratosis	02
7	Laryngeal epithelial papilloma	02
8	Rhinoscleroma (Scleroma of larynx)	01
	TOTAL	40



Age Group In Years	Studies showing age wise distribution of number of cases			
	Present Study (n=40)	Singhal P. et al Study (n=50)	Swapan Ghosh et al study (n=100)	Baitha et al study (n= 110)
< 10 yrs.	01 (2.5%)	0 (0)	04 (4%)	03 (2.72%)
11-20 yrs.	04 (10%)	4 (8%)	18 (18%)	09 (8.18%)
21-30 yrs.	15 (37.5%)	17 (34%)	28 (28%)	20 (18.18%)
31-40 yrs.	13 (32.5%)	13 (26%)	20 (20%)	31 (28.18%)
41-50 yrs.	05 (12.5%)	09 (18%)	18 (18%)	17 (15.45%)
51-60 yrs.	01 (2.5%)	07 (14%)	05 (5%)	15 (13.63%)
> 60 yrs.	01 (2.5%)		07 (7%)	15 (13.63%)