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Postoperative tympanogram in tympanoplasty with thin section cartilage island

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The advantage of cartilage in tympanoplasty is mechanical stability, for this reason some surgeons are using it as material of grafting tympanic membrane. However it had been not widely used for its increasing mass and stiffness effect. To minimized this problem some authors had used cartilage by palisade, thin section cartilage plate or cartilage island technique. In present study, author designed thin section cartilage island, which is combined technique of thin section cartilage plate and cartilage island. Tympanogram could give us information on the tympanic membrane status of the rigidity and stiffness. The tympanometric findings of this technique were compared with those of ordinary temporalis fascia group. 101cases of thin section cartilage island and 50cases of temporalis fascia technique underwent tympanoplasty type I. Tragal cartilage was harvested and made thin section cartilage island by 0.3-0.4 mm thickness including perichondrium, measured by micrometer. The cases which were poor Eustachian tube function and reperforated were excluded. The rate of the static compliance less than 0.2ml, tympanometric width less than 60mmH₂O was no significant stastic difference between temporalis fascia group and thin section cartilage island group. Type of tympanogram showed also no significant difference in both group. It makes us expect that thin section cartilage island could be a good material for tympanoplasty in aspect of stiffness and rigidity as well as mechanical stability.