

Oxford Skull Base Clinic

In 2013 the Oxford Skull Base Clinic describe the change in the management of acoustic neuromas at one United Kingdom center over a 20-year period and compare this with what is known regarding trends in practice on a national and international scale.

Main Outcome Measures The proportion of patients managed initially by observation versus radiotherapy versus surgery was recorded for each year.

Significantly more patients received radiation treatment (instead of surgery) between 2000 and 2009 when compared with 1990 to 1999. Compared with national audit data, the Oxford Skull Base Clinic treats a higher proportion of patients with radiotherapy and significantly lower proportion with surgery, though the trend nationally is toward more observation and radiotherapy and less surgery.

Surgery will remain crucial in the management of some patients with acoustic neuromas (usually those with the larger tumors where radiosurgery is recognized to be less appropriate), but using current trends to predict future practice would suggest that alternative nonmicrosurgical treatment may play an increasingly important role in the future ¹⁾.

¹⁾

Mackeith SA, Kerr RS, Milford CA. Trends in acoustic neuroma management: a 20-year review of the oxford skull base clinic. J Neurol Surg B Skull Base. 2013 Aug;74(4):194-200. doi: 10.1055/s-0033-1342919. Epub 2013 Apr 1. PubMed PMID: 24436912.

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