Rhytidectomy Approach to the Excision of a Branchial Cyst
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ABSTRACT
Branchial cysts are congenital anomalies of the branchial apparatus related to the partial obliteration of a branchial pouch. They usually appear as oval, tender and mobile cysts located anteriorly the sternocleidomastoid muscle. They are usually surgically removed. The traditional approach is made through an anterior incision in the neck. This approach guarantees an optimal radicality but it produces an aesthetic cervicodorsal scar. Keeping in mind that these cysts often occur in young people, aesthetic result should be improved. In this work we present a different surgical approach made through a modified rhytidectomy.

CONCLUSIONS
Rhytidectomy approach to the excision of a branchial cyst allows to reach a better aesthetic result if compared to the usual cervicotomy.

INTRODUCTION
Branchial cysts, or cervical lymphoepithelial cysts, are congenital anomalies of the branchial apparatus, due to incomplete obliteration of the fetal branchial arches. They appear as an unilateral soft-tissue swelling in the lateral aspect of the neck, located anteriorly the sternocleidomastoid muscle.

CASE REPORT
A 28-year-old man presented to our attention a 6 months story of a right superior laterocervical mass. Ultrasound study and Magnetic Resonance confirmed the presence of an oval underfarbical mass of 26x21x36 mm located along the anterior margin of the right sternocleidomastoid muscle, at the level of the II branchial arch.

The treatment was the surgical excision, performed through a modified rhytidectomy approach.

These pathways are usually located high and lateral in the neck, making them suitable for the rhytidectomy approach.

RESULTS
The use of a modified rhytidectomy incision in the excision of a branchial cyst allows to reach a better aesthetic result if compared to the usual cervicotomy.

REFERENCES

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40 days after surgery