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**SPEARHEADING RESPONSIBLE
RESEARCH & INNOVATION TOWARDS
ACHIEVING SUSTAINABILITY**

7TH & 8TH DECEMBER 2023

ABSTRACT BOOK

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*'Spearheading Responsible
Research & Innovation towards
Achieving Sustainability'*

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Chyle Leak Following Neck Dissection: Lesson Learned

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Introduction: Chyle leak is a rare and serious complication that may occur following head and neck surgery. Although the reported incidence is less than 2.5%, it may cause significant local and systemic problems such as poor wound healing, fistula formation, progression into chylothorax, secondary bacterial infection, hypovolemia and electrolyte disturbances. **Case Report:** We reported two cases of chyle leak following total thyroidectomy and neck dissection, both done for papillary thyroid carcinoma. First patient developed chyle leak and subsequent chylothorax, diagnosed during early postoperative period after we noted milky drainage from her left neck drain. Chest radiograph confirmed the diagnosis and she was treated conservatively with peripheral nutrition support, Medium-Chain Triglyceride oil as well as subcutaneous octreotide. Second patient however had a delayed presentation with neck collection noted during clinic follow up 2 weeks post-surgery. As such, in addition to the above measures employed for first patient, she required percutaneous drainage to drain the collection. Both patients successfully recovered well and does not require any additional surgery. **Conclusion:** Chyle leak and its sequelae of problems can be a challenging postoperative complication to deal with and prevention of the complication is therefore paramount. If such complication however still occur, prompt recognition of its occurrence and institution of correct management is vital in order to prevent further morbidity. This may be achieved by having high index of suspicion and sound understanding of the anatomy, physiology and pathophysiology of the condition.

Keywords: Chyle leak; lateral neck dissection; papillary thyroid carcinoma