

## IS THERE A PLACE FOR PERIURETHRAL INJECTIONS (MACROPLASTIQUE) FOR THE TREATMENT OF STRESS INCONTINENCE?-PATIENTS' VERDICT

### Hypothesis / aims of study

Stress incontinence is a common gynaecological complaint with significant impact on the quality of life. Periurethral injection is one of the management options for stress incontinence. This involves injecting bulking agents around the urethra and it is a relatively simple procedure which can be performed under local anaesthetic. A recent systematic review has shown periurethral injection to be inferior to surgery in treating stress incontinence (1). It is nevertheless a useful option for short-term management of women who are unfit for surgery or women who have not completed their families. The value of this procedure in women who are fit for surgery is debatable. We carried out a survey to obtain patients' views on this procedure.

The aims of the survey were:

- To assess patients' expectations before treatment with periurethral injections.
- To assess the effect of the treatment of urinary symptoms and sexual satisfaction
- To gain insight into patients' impression of the treatment.

### Study design, materials and methods

All women who had periurethral injection for stress incontinence at the local hospital up till Dec 2009 were identified from the computer records. Thirty nine women were identified and all these women were sent postal questionnaires. Data from the completed and returned questionnaires were put onto Microsoft excel and analysed.

### Results

Twenty eight completed questionnaires were returned. Majority of patients expected periurethral injections to improve their symptoms of stress incontinence, as well as symptoms of detrusor overactivity and sexual satisfaction. More than half of patients admitted improvement in urinary symptoms and only a small number subsequently required surgical treatment for their stress incontinence. However, more than half of the patients felt that the procedure did not meet their expectations.

### Interpretation of results

Patient satisfaction with this procedure was below expectations for the majority of patients because they expected improvement of urinary symptoms other than just stress incontinence.

### Concluding message

There is a role for periurethral injection in the management of stress incontinence but not as first line option in women fit for surgery.

### References

1. Keegan PE, Atiemo K, Cody JD, McClinton S, Pickard R. Periurethral injection therapy for urinary incontinence in women. Cochrane Database of Systemic Reviews 2007, Issue 3. Art. No.:CD003881. DOI:10.1002/14651858.CD003881.pub2

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<b>Is this a clinical trial?</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>What were the subjects in the study?</b>	<b>HUMAN</b>
<b>Was this study approved by an ethics committee?</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>This study did not require ethics committee approval because</b>	<b>This patient satisfaction survey did not require ethical approval, but permission from our clinical audit department was sought.</b>
<b>Was the Declaration of Helsinki followed?</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>This study did not follow the Declaration of Helsinki in the sense that</b>	<b>It is not a study.</b>
<b>Was informed consent obtained from the patients?</b>	<b>Yes</b>