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MALE SLINGS IN THE UK: A 4 YEAR REVIEW AND FOLLOW UP.

Hypothesis / aims of study

Currently, there is limited evidence to determine which patients may achieve successful functional outcomes from a male sling. Identifying patients likely to benefit from a male sling would improve patient satisfaction, cure rates and quality of life. The aim of this study is to evaluate the role of the male sling in the treatment of stress urinary incontinence (SUI).

Study design, materials and methods

This retrospective audit included 41 patients over a 4 year study period. All of the men studied were incontinent secondary to previous prostate surgery and 6 had also undergone radiotherapy. All patients had urodynamically proven SUI, and were investigated with flexible cystoscopy prior to surgery.

The degree of incontinence was categorised according to pad usage: mild (1-2 pads per day), moderate (3-4 pads per day) or severe (greater than five pads per day). There were 25 patients in the Mild to Moderate group and 16 in the severe category.

Preoperative and postoperative pad usage was recorded. The "Advance Sling" was placed in 21 of the patients and the others had an 'I-STOP TOMS Sling' inserted. Postoperatively, the following quality of life and functional outcome questionnaires were performed: IPSS bother score and Global response assessment. Complications were classified according to the 'Clavien-Dindo' grading system. The impact of the male sling on functional outcome and quality of life was evaluated.

Results

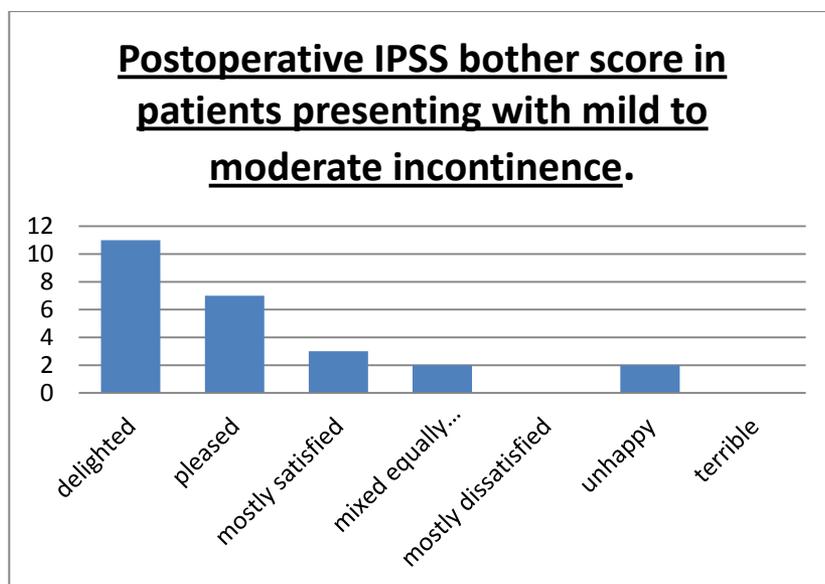
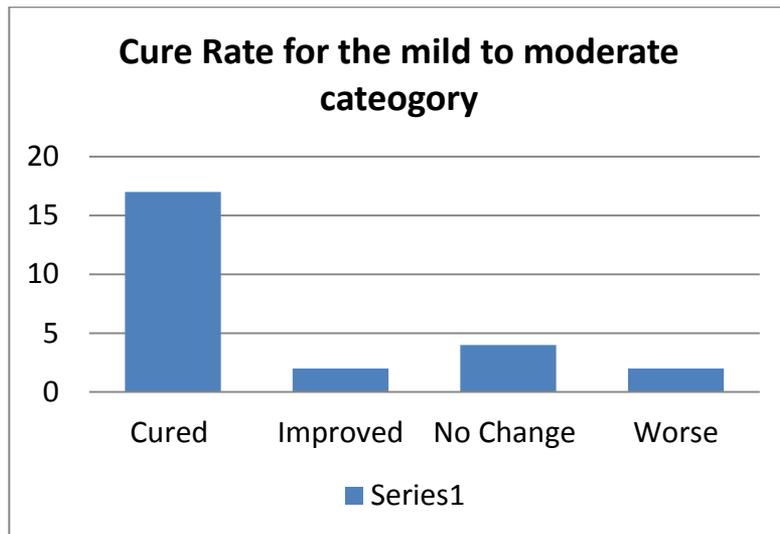
After sling insertion, and a mean follow up of 15.8 months; overall 73% of men were down to either 0-1 pad per day. Overall the IPSS bother score questionnaire showed that 75% of men were pleased, delighted or mostly satisfied with their final functional outcome.

88% of men in the mild to moderate incontinence category showed an improvement in pad usage with 76% being cured or markedly improved. Evaluation of quality of life with the Global Response Questionnaire demonstrated that 63% of men had a moderate or marked improvement.

The average hospital stay was 1 day. No significant complications were identified.

Interpretation of results

We show a marked improvement in postoperative pad usage, functional outcome and quality of life following the use of the male sling in patients with SUI. The mild to moderate category showed a higher rate of continence and pad reduction. Results were not significantly affected by previous radiotherapy.



Concluding messages

- After male sling insertion for SUI, 73% of men were down to either 0-1 pad per day.
- The male sling has a better functional outcome in the mild to moderate category of patients.
- The male sling results in improved quality of life for these patients.
- The male sling procedure is suitable for day case surgery.
- There are no significant complications with this type of procedure.

Specify source of funding or grant	Nil
Is this a clinical trial?	No
What were the subjects in the study?	NONE