

## SHORT TERM POST OPERATIVE COMPLICATIONS AFTER VAGINAL PACKING, A RANDOMISED CONTROLLED STUDY.

### Hypothesis / aims of study

A randomized controlled trial on the use of vaginal packing after vaginal surgery was conducted with postoperative complications as outcome measure.

Although vaginal surgery is a widely used technique in pelvic organ prolapse surgery, there is little research concerning the post operative course after vaginal surgery.

The rationale for using a tampon after vaginal surgery is to prevent hematoma's, minimize post-operative blood loss and prevent recurrence of prolapse.

The standard protocol in our clinic is to remove the gauze packing one day after surgery. Patients perceive the packing and the removal as unpleasant.

### Study design, materials and methods

A prospective randomized controlled trial was conducted. All vaginal surgery could be included, with exclusion of TVT, TOT or combined vaginal and abdominal surgery. After informed consent and after surgery patients were randomized to receive a vaginal packing or not. The intervention of this study makes it impossible to be blinded. Patient data were collected prospectively. The outcome was postoperative complication of bleeding (needing vaginal packing, surgery, blood transfusion or a significant drop in hemoglobin) or infection (needing antibiotics or surgery).

### Results

43 women were included in the study. 22 women received vaginal packing and 21 women did not. Patient data at baseline were comparable. Urinary tract infections were found in 1/22 women with vaginal packing and 4/21 in patients without. Hematoma's were found in 2/22 women with vaginal packing and none in the group without. One patient had fever of unknown origin in the vaginal packing group. And two women in the group with packing had failure of spontaneous micturition. No patients needed surgical intervention for complication after the operation. In both groups there was one mesh erosion.

### Interpretation of results

In the group without vaginal packing there is a higher incidence of urinary tract infection, but a lower incidence of hematoma's.

### Concluding message

This small randomized controlled trial does not show any benefit of using vaginal packing after vaginal surgery.

<b>Specify source of funding or grant</b>	<b>no disclosures</b>
<b>Is this a clinical trial?</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Is this study registered in a public clinical trials registry?</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Is this a Randomised Controlled Trial (RCT)?</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>What were the subjects in the study?</b>	<b>HUMAN</b>
<b>Was this study approved by an ethics committee?</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Specify Name of Ethics Committee</b>	<b>Ethische commissie</b>
<b>Was the Declaration of Helsinki followed?</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Was informed consent obtained from the patients?</b>	<b>Yes</b>