

EFFICACY AND COMPLICATIONS OF THE ARGUS T SLING

Hypothesis / aims of study

In recent years, several male slings for the treatment of male stress urinary incontinence (SUI) were introduced. The Argus T sling is a radiopaque cushioned system with a silicone foam pad for soft compression of the bulbar urethra and is implanted via a transobturator approach. Aim of the study was to evaluate the efficacy and the safety of the Argus T sling in male patients with moderate to severe SUI.

Study design, materials and methods

In a prospective study, 27 patients with moderate to severe SUI were treated with the Argus T sling. 23 patients were incontinent after radical prostatectomy, 3 after TUR-P and 1 after green light laser treatment. 11 patients had an additional radiotherapy. Preoperatively, a standardized 24-hour-pad-test, evaluation of daily pad use, uroflowmetry, residual urine and quality of life scores (IQOL and ICIQ-UI SF) were performed and in urodynamic studies detrusor overactivity was excluded.

Results

After a mean follow up of 9.7 months (3-43 months) 15 patients were dry (55.6%) with a pad-test of 0-1g/24h. 8 patients (29.6%) improved. 4 patients showed no improvement and are considered failures so far. However, in 3 of the 4 failed patients a re-adjustment was recommended but the patients refused it until now. Therefore, these patients may potentially be cured after adjustment. Postoperatively, mean PGI-score (Patient Global Impression of Improvement) was 1.8. In mean 0.4 readjustments were performed (0-2). Patients showed a significant reduction of urine loss in the pad-test and of daily pad use and a significant improvement of quality of life. No intraoperative complications occurred. 2 patients had a superficial wound infection with emerging of the distal silicon columns in the suprapubic region. After shortening the columns in local anesthesia both patients were treated successfully with antibiotics (sling explantation was not necessary in both cases). One sling was explanted (due to ineffectiveness) and in this case an artificial urinary sphincter was successfully implanted. 1 patient suffered from persistent perineal pain for 5 months. There was no difference in patients with and without radiotherapy.

Interpretation of results

The Argus T sling shows a good effectiveness and patient satisfaction. In addition, implantation after additional radiotherapy shows comparable results.

Concluding message

The Argus T sling offers an effective and safe treatment option for male patients with moderate to severe SUI.

References

1. Bauer et al, Eur Urol 2011, 59, 985-996, Contemporary Management of Postprostatectomy Incontinence

Disclosures

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