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Title (type in
CAPITAL
LETTERS)PROSPECTIVE INVESTIGATION OF THE EFFECT OF
LAPAROSCOPIC ELECTROTHERMAL TREATMENT OF FEMALE
STRESS URINARY INCONTINENCE

Aims of Study: Evaluate the safety and efficacy of laparoscopic electrothermal shrinkage of the endopelvic fascia in the treatment of female stress urinary incontinence (SUI) due to urethral hyper-mobility. **Methods:** Convenience sampling was used to enter 10 patients in this prospective exploratory, non-randomized, single center study. **Patients:** Mature females (ages 39-63 yr.) with no prior abdominal surgery and with SUI symptoms on an average of 12 years. **Interventions:** Laparoscopic extraperitoneal approach in the electrothermal shrinkage of the female fascia. **Results:** The improved/cured rate was 90% at 1 week and 70% at 1, 3, and 6 months post-treatment. For the three patients with no improvement, one was a planned procedural deviation and the other two were due to over activity during the healing process. The average quality of Life score at six months post-treatment was a >30% improvement over baseline. No operative complications were observed and 9/10 patients voided normally at discharge. Two minor post-operative complications (bladder infection and overflow incontinence 2nd to periurethral edema) were seen and resolved within one week of treatment. The average surgical time was < 2 minutes. **Conclusions:** Preliminary results with laparoscopic electrothermal shrinkage of the endopelvic fascia are encouraging and provide evidence supporting a safe and effective alternative in the treatment of female stress urinary incontinence.