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Patient attitudes and symptoms two years post open and endoscopic Burch Colposuspension

Aims of Study: To compare patient attitudes and symptoms following open and endoscopic colposuspension

Methods: Eighty five patients underwent either open or endoscopic Burch Colposuspension over a two year period (1996 - 1997). None had previous bladder neck surgery and all had genuine stress incontinence confirmed urodynamically. A postal questionnaire was sent to each patient seeking information on their bladder function and also enquiring about their attitudes towards their surgery. Thirty of thirty five endoscopic and forty one of fifty open surgery patients replied.

Results: The subjective cure rate in the open group was 83% compared with 87% in th endoscopic group. However, when asked if they had ever leaked the success rate dropped to 61% compared with 53% in the endoscopic group. Voiding difficulties were noted by 12% of the open group compared with only 3% of the endoscopic group. The recovery period (when they felt completely back to normal activities) was estimated by the open group to be 14 weeks compared to 8 weeks in the endoscopic group. When asked if they were happy with the result, 87% of the open and 90% of the endoscopic groups said yes. However, when asked if they would recommend it to a friend, only 49% of the open as compared to 87% of the endoscopic group said yes.

Conclusions: The overall success rates at two years were acceptable but over 40% of all patients had experienced at least one episode of leakage. The recovery time experience was considerably shorter in the endoscopic group and whilst the satisfaction rates in both groups are in the region of 90%, the fact that less than half the open group would recommend it to a friend is of concern.