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**Title:** Tension - Free Surgical Correction Of Cystocele With Porcine Dermal Collagen: A novel approach

**Aims of study:**

Cystocele result from loss of anatomical supports due to significant reduction in total fibrous content of collagen and structural glyco-proteins in the genitourinary region. This study aims to evaluate the tension - free reconstruction of the base of the bladder, using porcine dermal collagen implant as repair material.

**Method and Material:**

56 patients with symptomatic cystocele prolapse presenting to a single team between January 1999 and October 2000 were included in the study. The cystocele was repaired using a standard, minimal-dissection technique to create a tension-free support of the anterior vaginal wall, with porcine dermal collagen implant (PELVICOL<sup>R</sup> - BARD). The outcome variables were measured as recurrence of symptoms and patient satisfaction. These were assessed by periodic questionnaires. Data analysis was performed using SPSS (version 10.0).

**Results:**

Evaluation of the patients in the study (n=56), age 28 to 86 years (mean 56.6) was done after a follow-up period of 6 to 26 months (mean=16). The wound breakdown rate was 3.6%, causing the cystocele to need repairing again. The overall improvement and patient satisfaction was 82.5 % at follow-up.

**Conclusion:**

There is a positive trend in the improvement of symptoms and patient satisfaction with the tension-free technique using porcine collagen for surgical correction of cystocele. We propose to follow-up these patients for 60 months to study the long-term success of this promising technique for primary and recurrent anterior vaginal wall prolapse.

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