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**Title:** WHERE SURGEONS DARE. THE EFFECT OF BODY WEIGHT ON TVT SUCCESS RATES

**Aims of the study:**

Increased weight is considered to be a risk factor for post-operative morbidity. However it does not appear to alter the success rates of continence surgery. Previous studies have shown no difference in outcome following anterior colporrhaphy, needle suspension procedures and colposuspension with respect to body mass index (1). To date there are no data regarding the effect of body weight on the outcome of the Tension-free Vaginal Tape (TVT) procedure. The aim of the study was to determine if body weight influences the success rate of the TVT procedure.

**Methods:**

A retrospective multi-centre observational study set in three centres: a tertiary referral unit, a teaching hospital and a district general hospital. The hospital case notes for all the patients having a TVT inserted were reviewed. Data were extracted using a standard proforma. The patient's pre-operative weight was obtained from the hospital notes. Subjective cure was defined as no reported leakage by the patient at routine post-operative follow up. A record was made of patients subjective cure at follow up and this was compared to weight at the time of surgery. For the purposes of analysis a weight of over 80Kg was taken as the cut off. Data on weight and subjective cure was available on 247 women. The data were analysed using SPSS version 10 for windows. Statistical analysis was performed using the Chi-squared test.

**Results:**

Women with lower body weight (less than 80 Kg) had a significantly lower success rate than those women who weighed over 80Kg (88% vs 97%). When the two groups were compared there was no difference in the complication rate (5% in both groups). In this instance complication was defined as excessive bleeding requiring a vaginal pack or bladder perforation.

	Cure		Total
	Yes	No	
Weight < 80 Kg	162	22*	184
Weight > 80 Kg	61	2*	63
Total	223	24	247

\* Statistically significant lower cure rate in women < 80 Kg p< 0.05

**Conclusions:**

Whilst increased body weight is thought to be associated with increased post-operative morbidity previous work has suggested that it does not affect the outcome of continence surgery. Preliminary data from this observational study would suggest that increased body weight does not adversely affect the outcome of the TVT procedure. Increased body weight should not be a deterrent for performing continence surgery.

**References:**

1. Body mass index and outcome of continence surgery. *Obstetrics & Gynecology*. 93(5): 753-6

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