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Title: LONG TERM FOLLOW-UP RESULTS OF EXTRAPERITONEAL LAPAROSCOPIC BURCH BLADDER NECK SUSPENSION

Aims of Study:

Despite the encouraging short-term results after the laparoscopic Burch operation for female stress urinary incontinence, many investigators reported the decreases of the success rate on long-term follow up studies. These facts have urged us to investigate the change of success rate on long term follow up and related factors of them.

Methods:

This study was performed for 39 patients in which long-term followup were possible after having received laparoscopic Burch operation from May 1995 to December 1996. Mean follow up duration was 41months(32-50 months). Extraperitoneal approach was performed in all cases, and postoperative 3 months and long term follow-up results were assessed using standardized questionnaire and medical record. Symptom grades were categorized by Stamey grade. Factors affecting postoperative outcome and complications were also analyzed.

Results:

At 3 month short term follow-up, 64.1% were cured and 28.2% were improved. However, on the long term follow-up, success rates were dropped to 46.1% and 25.6% respectively. Factors affecting postoperative outcome were preoperative Stamey grade and VLPP. Age, parity, symptom's duration, body weight had no correlation with post-operative results. Of the 12 patients with preoperative symptoms of urgency and/or urge incontinence, 8 patients reported disappearance or decreases of those symptoms postoperatively. Obstructive symptoms occurred in 7 cases, but progressively improved with time.

Conclusions:

With these results, it could be concluded that initial success rate of laparoscopic Burch operation is high, but declined with time. However, on the basis of the lower failure rate in Stamey grade I patients, we could selectively apply this operation for grade I stress urinary incontinence.

Key words: Laparoscopic Burch operation, Long term follow-up