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Authors: Deena H. Evans, David S. Meinbach, Shahar Madjar, Angelo E. Gousse
Institution: University of Miami, Department of Urology
Title: FEMALE ANTI-INCONTINECE PROCEDURES: PRACTICE PATTERNS IN FLORIDA.

Aims Of Study:

Female urology is fast evolving as one of the most important subspecialties in urology. Many urologists, however, feel undertrained in this particular area. We sought to evaluate the current trends in the practice of female anti-incontinence procedures among urologists in the state of Florida.

Methods:

A 14 question survey was mailed to all Florida members of the American Urologic Association (N=702). Questions dealt with professional training, type of practice, female urology clinical volume, preferred female anti-incontinence procedures, and extent of collaboration with gynecologists.

Results:

An overall response rate of 15.6% (N=110) was achieved with one mailing. Five percent (6) of practicing urologists did not perform any anti-incontinence procedures. Of the remaining 95% (104), only ten urologists (9.0%) dedicate more than 25% of their operative practice to anti-incontinence procedures, including four of the six respondents (5.4%) who are fellowship trained in female urology. Seven urologists (6.3%), none of whom had formal fellowship training in female urology, prefer to collaborate with a gynecologist when performing anti-incontinence procedures. A vaginal approach is used by 86 urologists (78.1%), 88% of whom perform pubovaginal sling procedures using the following materials: autologous fascia (22), cadaveric fascia (54), synthetic (6), and vaginal wall (6) (thirteen urologists utilize more than one type of material). An abdominal approach is preferred by eighteen urologists (16.3%). Of the nine who use this approach exclusively, all are at least 10 years post-residency.

Conclusions:

Although female incontinence remains a significant social and medical problem in the aging population. Anti-incontinence procedures constitute a small percentage of Florida Urologists' practices. Pubovaginal slings are the preferred procedure for most urologists, the majority utilizing cadaveric fascia. An abdominal approach is still used, however more frequently by older practitioners. As the field of Female Urology continues to evolve, it can be anticipated that urologists will dedicate more time to the treatment of incontinent women.