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EFFECTS OF MESH SHORTENING IN FAILED MIDURETHRAL SLING PROCEDURES IN FEMALE STRESS URINARY INCONTINENCE

Hypothesis / aims of study

Midurethral sling (MUS) procedures in female stress urinary incontinence are known to have low complication rate, however, some patients have complained of recurrence of urine leakage immediately after surgery. In such cases, reoperation can correct their symptoms. But this requires additional physical stress to patients, such as anesthesia and hospitalization as well as medical expenses. We performed mesh shortening in such cases who showed recurred incontinence within 4 weeks after surgery.

Study design, materials and methods

From Mar. 2002 to Sep. 2006, 419 MUS procedures were performed by one surgeon. 12 (2.9%) out of 419 patients reported recurrence or persistent urine leakage within 4 weeks after initial surgery. All of them underwent shortening (a 4-zero prolene sutures on both edges of mesh at the midline) of the previously implanted MUS mesh and were enrolled in this study. Medical records of 12 patients were reviewed and postoperative follow-up was done by detailed telephone interview as least 1 year after mesh shortening.

Results

Mean age was 57.8 years old and mean time between initial MUS and the shortening procedures was 4.9 weeks. Mean follow-up periods were 23.2 months and 8 patients had ISD (VLPP<60 cmH_2O). 5 patients (41.7%) were objectively cured, 3 (25.0%) were improved and 4 (33.3%) were failed.

Interpretation of results

Although the incidence of failed MUS procedure is very low, immediate recurrence of incontinence would impose a burden on both surgeon and patients. Mesh shortening performed by local anesthesia showed complete dryness in 41.7% and partial improvement in 25.0%.

Concluding message

Simple mesh shortening can expect symptomatic improvement of failed incontinence surgery, so that this method could be considered as a primary correction before doing reoperation. In addition, this can save medical expenses.

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Is this a clinical trial?	**Yes**
Is this study registered in a public clinical trials registry?	**No**
What were the subjects in the study?	**HUMAN**
Was this study approved by an ethics committee?	**No**
This study did not require eithics committee approval because	**retrospective study**
Was the Declaration of Helsinki followed?	**Yes**
Was informed consent obtained from the patients?	**Yes**