

SEXUAL FUNCTION IN WOMEN BEFORE AND AFTER SUBURETHRAL SLING OPERATION FOR STRESS URINARY INCONTINENCE

Hypothesis / aims of study

To investigate the change of the patients' sexual function after the surgeries for stress urinary incontinence (SUI).

Study design, materials and methods

The study included eighty-one sexually active patients (mean age was 50.1±6.9 years) who underwent surgery for SUI on from January 2006 to December 2006. Before and 3 months after the operation, female sexual function was evaluated with a detailed 19-item questionnaire, the female sexual function index (FSFI), including sexual desire, arousal, lubrication, orgasm, satisfaction, and pain. In all women, sexual function was compared before and after surgery for SUI.

Results

Forty-four women had tension-free vaginal tape (TVT), thirty-four women had intravaginal slingplasty (IVS) and three women had tension-free vaginal tape obturator (TVT-O). Total sexual function scores significantly increased from 21.86±6.24 to 23.68±6.18 after surgery (P = 0.028). Statistically significantly increased in postoperative sexual desire (P < 0.001), arousal (P = 0.001), satisfaction scores (P = 0.006). Lubrication and orgasm scores increased but there was no significant difference (P > 0.244, P = 0.105). But pain scores significantly decreased from 4.76±1.45 to 4.27±1.41 after surgery (P = 0.018).

Table 1. Comparison between preoperative and postoperative FSFI score

	Pre-operation	Post-operation	p-value
Total Score	21.86±6.24	23.68±6.18	0.028
Desire	2.61±1.02	3.39±1.50	<0.001
Arousal	3.12±1.25	3.77±1.24	0.001
Lubrication	4.17±1.39	4.38±1.37	0.244
Orgasm	3.65±1.33	3.91±1.23	0.105
Satisfaction	3.55±1.25	3.96±1.05	0.006
Pain	4.76±1.45	4.27±1.41	0.018

FSFI: Female Sexual Function Index

Interpretation of results

Incontinent women had a decrease in sexual desire due not only to physical factors such as menopause, aging, and hysterectomy, but also to emotional factors such as fear of odor and/or incontinence, loss of self-confidence, and embarrassment. Our findings show that total sexual function scores significantly increased and especially the items such as sexual desire, arousal, satisfaction scores significantly increased after suburethral sling operation for stress urinary incontinence.

Concluding message

Sexual functions may be significantly improved after suburethral sling operation for stress urinary incontinence.

References

1. J Sex Med (2007) 4: 656–666
2. Eur Urol (2003) 43: 535–538
3. Urol Int (2005) 74: 250–255

Specify source of funding or grant	No
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 ethics committee approval because	We investigated this study by questionnaire after patient's agree. So there are not any ethical problem
Was the Declaration of Helsinki followed?	Yes
Was informed consent obtained from the patients?	Yes