

ROBOTIC-ASSISTED LAPAROSCOPIC RETROPUBIC URETHROLYSIS FOR INTRADETRUSOR TVT SLING

Introduction

Complications from retropubic sling placement include obstruction, bladder erosion, or pain. We present a case of a retropubic sling lysis using a robotic-assisted laparoscopic approach in whom we felt complete retropubic excision of the sling from the bladder wall, rather than transvaginal urethrolisis, would provide optimal symptomatic relief.

Design

A 35 year old female presented 6 years after TVT sling procedure with suprapubic and left lower quadrant pain, and dysuria. On exam, she was found to have pain in the left periurethral space and cystoscopy confirmed visible submucosal sling material coursing within the muscle without erosion. A 4-arm da Vinci "S" robot was used to assist a laparoscopic approach. The patient was in steep Trendelenburg position, allowing excellent access to the retropubic space, bladder, and both arms of the sling. The contralateral arm of the sling was cut, while the side involving the intradetrusor portion was removed in its entirety.

Results

Complete excision was accomplished and resulted in only a small cystotomy that was closed with a single figure-of-eight absorbable suture. The patient was discharged home after 24 hours with catheter drainage for 72 hours. At 6 month follow-up, the patient is asymptomatic, pain-free, with no recurrent stress incontinence.

Conclusions

Identification of sling adherence to the bladder wall, even without mucosal perforation, in a symptomatic patient such as this, may warrant a retropubic, rather than transvaginal urethrolisis and complete removal of the offending agent. A laparoscopic approach using da Vinci robotic assistance to remove a mesh sling is feasible and offers excellent visualization, dexterity, and hemostasis. While published reports of laparoscopic removal of sling erosion exist, this is the first report of a robotic-assisted laparoscopic approach for this indication with a successful outcome.

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<i>Is this a clinical trial?</i>	No
<i>What were the subjects in the study?</i>	HUMAN
<i>Was this study approved by an ethics committee?</i>	Yes
<i>Specify Name of Ethics Committee</i>	The Ohio State University Institutional Review Board
<i>Was the Declaration of Helsinki followed?</i>	Yes
<i>Was informed consent obtained from the patients?</i>	Yes