

## COMPLEX UROGENITAL FISTULAS: PRINCIPLES OF SURGICAL REPAIR

### Hypothesis / aims of study

To discuss general plastic surgical principles of repair for complex urogenital fistulas.

### Study design, materials and methods

Prospective Study. Twenty complex urogenital fistulas were repaired using the general principles of a) adequate pre-operative preparations, b) detailed counseling and consent, c) plastic surgical principles of tissue handling & tissue dissections, d) circum-incision & circum-dissection of the complex fistulas, e) closure of bladder and the vagina separately in two layers at right angle to each other using- polyglactin 910 suture on round bodied needle, f) segregation of the suture lines using interposition flaps, g) wide bore drainage of the cavities, h) vigilant post-operative care, especially adequate hydration, i) strict compliance of the post operative & follow up instructions and , j) total hysterectomy, augmentation cystoplasty, ureteric re-implantation, colpo-cystoplasty as per the requirements .(1-3)

### Results

Eighteen complex fistulas had successful out come and who recurrences were closed successfully after an interval of 6 months. All were continent at early and late follow-ups.

### Interpretation of results

Wide circum-dissection of the fistulas, tensionless right angle closure of bladder and vagina, and re-enforcing the repair with interposition or interposition & on lay flaps are key steps for successful out come of urogenital fistulas.

### Concluding message

Strict adherence to the plastic surgical principles of tissue handling, dissection, and further re-strengthening of the repair are mandatory maneuvers for the success of this worst complication following any obstetrical or gynecological procedure/ problem.

### References

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2. Mattingly RE, Thompson JD, eds- Telinde's Operative Gynecology. 10th ed. Philadelphia: Lippincott, William and Wilkin, 2008
3. Latzko W. Postoperative vesicovaginal fistula: genesis and therapy. Am J Surg 1942; 58:211-28

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<b>Is this a clinical trial?</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>What were the subjects in the study?</b>	<b>HUMAN</b>
<b>Was this study approved by an ethics committee?</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>This study did not require ethics committee approval because</b>	<b>nothing new was tried.</b>
<b>Was the Declaration of Helsinki followed?</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Was informed consent obtained from the patients?</b>	<b>Yes</b>