

## LONG-TERM FOLLOW-UP OF THE TENSION-FREE VAGINAL TAPE (TVT) PROCEDURE FOR TREATING FEMALE STRESS URINARY INCONTINENCE

### Hypothesis / aims of study

We wanted to evaluate the 7 year results of the tension-free vaginal tape (TVT) procedure for treating stress urinary incontinence in women.

### Study design, materials and methods

Of 144 women that underwent the TVT procedure, between March 1999 and June 2002, for stress urinary incontinence, 62 were followed up for at least 7 years following surgery.

Preoperatively, the patients were evaluated with history taking, physical examinations, one hour pad tests, urine analysis, urine cultures and complete multichannel urodynamic studies. Long-term evaluations were performed via questionnaires on the durability of the surgical outcome and the patients' satisfaction with the procedure. All the patients were asked about their voiding symptoms as well as any recurrence by conducting detailed telephone interviews.

### Results

The follow-up period was a mean of 98.5 months. Of the 62 patients who were followed up for at least 7 years, the patients were classified according to their symptom grades; grade I (n=15, 24.1%), grade II (n=34, 54.8%) and grade III (n=13, 20.9%). the TVT procedure remained successful in 82.2% (cured: 59.6%, improved: 22.6%). 30 patients (48.4%) were very satisfied, 19 patients (30.6%) were satisfied with the TVT procedure. There were no serious or long-term complications related to the procedure.

### Interpretation of results

The TVT procedure showed a good long-term cure rate for treating female stress urinary incontinence.

### Concluding message

We consider the TVT procedure to be an effective treatment for stress urinary incontinence, with long-term durability of continence and minimal complications related to the surgery.

<b><i>Specify source of funding or grant</i></b>	<b>NONE</b>
<b><i>Is this a clinical trial?</i></b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b><i>Is this study registered in a public clinical trials registry?</i></b>	<b>No</b>
<b><i>What were the subjects in the study?</i></b>	<b>HUMAN</b>
<b><i>Was this study approved by an ethics committee?</i></b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b><i>Specify Name of Ethics Committee</i></b>	<b>PNUH IRB (Pusan National University Hospital Institutional Review Board)</b>
<b><i>Was the Declaration of Helsinki followed?</i></b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b><i>Was informed consent obtained from the patients?</i></b>	<b>Yes</b>