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Inoue M[1], Watanabe T[1], Ishii A[1], Yamato T[1], Uehara S[1], Ozawa H[2], Araki S[3], Tomokuni Y[3], Yokoyama T[4], Kumon H[1]

1. *Okayama University Hospital,* ***2.*** *Kawasaki hospital,* ***3.*** *Okayama Rosai Hospital,* ***4.*** *Kawasaki medical school hospital*

DOES SEXUAL FUNCTION CHANGE AFTER TENSION-FREE VAGINAL MESH PROCEDURE FOR PELVIC ORGAN PROLAPSE? : A MULTICENTERE PROSPECTIVE STUDY IN JAPAN

Hypothesis / aims of study

The polypropylene mesh is now available to augment surgery for pelvic organ prolapse (POP) in Japan. In this study we prospectively estimated sexual function before and after tension-free vaginal mesh (TVM) for surgical correction of pelvic organ prolapse

Study design, materials and methods

From March 2007 to March 2009, total 145 patients underwent TVM for surgical correction of POP. One hundred patients were sexually active before surgery and 27 patients were evaluated prospectively before and at 3, 6, and 12 months after surgery. Female sexual function was evaluated with the Female Sexual Function Index (FSFI) which was a 19-question, self-report measure, organized in a 6-domain structure, including desire, subjective arousal, lubrication, orgasm, satisfaction, and pain.

Results

Mean age at surgery was 65.8±7.8 years, Before surgery, sexual activity was significantly reduced in POP patients (FSFI 10.2±7.9) comparing to age-matched control group without POP (FSFI 20.1±9.9). Total FSFI scores improved significantly from 10.2±7.9 at baseline to 18.2±8.1 at 6months, 21.4±7.3 at 12 monthsr after surgery. All domains except desire were improved significantly at 6 and 12 months after surgery. Frequency of sexual activity also increased 0.97 per month at baseline to 1.78 at 12 months after surgery.

Interpretation of results

Pelvic organ prolapse appears to have a significant negative impact on female sexual function. Tension-free vaginal mesh can contribute to an anatomical correction of POP, but also an improvement of sexual function.

Concluding message

Sexual dysfunction is a prevalent and distressing problem in Japanese women with POP and seems to affect the sexual quality of life.

Assessment and management of sexual dysfunction as well as urinary dysfunction should be considered as a routine evaluation.

Specify source of funding or grant	**non**
Is this a clinical trial?	**Yes**
Is this study registered in a public clinical trials registry?	**No**
Is this a Randomised Controlled Trial (RCT)?	**No**
What were the subjects in the study?	**HUMAN**
Was this study approved by an ethics committee?	**Yes**
Specify Name of Ethics Committee	**Health science campus okayama university Ethics Committee**
Was the Declaration of Helsinki followed?	**Yes**
Was informed consent obtained from the patients?	**Yes**