

IMMEDIATE NEOBLADDER-VAGINAL FISTULA REPAIR AFTER ORTHOTOPIC UTERUS SPARING RADICAL CYSTECTOMY

Introduction

Neobladder-vaginal fistula (NVF) is uncommon but mandates accurate management. We report our experience regarding immediate repair of NVF with Martius flap by transvaginal approach.

Design

Three patients who developed NVF after orthotopic uterus sparing radical cystectomy underwent immediate fistula repair between 2006-2009 (Ileal-Neobladder n=2; Sigmoid Neobladder n=1). All patients complained of severe urinary incontinence immediately after removal of the draining catheters. Fistula tract was identified with cystoscopy and vaginal speculum examination. In one patient, vaginal perforation was recognized during cystectomy and repaired primarily. Two were located distally at the orthotopic neobladder-urethral junction and one was at the base of neobladder. Under spinal anesthesia the patient was positioned in dorsal lithotomy. A foley catheter was inserted into the bladder through the fistula, its baloon inflated and taken to retraction. A circumferential incision was made around the fistula. The plane between the vaginal wall and neobladder was completely dissected. Fistula tract was not excised, but neobladder was closed in two layers. A fat flap from adjacent labial tissue was raised, transferred under the vaginal mucosa, and fixed over the repair followed by primary closure of the vaginal wall.

Results

In all patients, the urethral catheter was removed in the third week. Non of the patients showed any evidence of recurrent VVF with a mean follow-up of 22 months.

Conclusion

Inadvertent injury to the vaginal wall is an important predisposing factor to subsequent NVF. Immediate NVF repair with Martius flap is a viable option that may potentially eliminate subsequent extensive surgeries.

<i>Specify source of funding or grant</i>	We have no fund
<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>	No
<i>This study did not require ethics committee approval because</i>	The study presents data from patients operated in our clinic. All patients gave informed consent and institutional review board approval was obtained.
<i>Was the Declaration of Helsinki followed?</i>	Yes
<i>Was informed consent obtained from the patients?</i>	Yes