IMPACT OF VAGINAL MESH ON SEXUAL FUNCTION

Hypothesis / aims of study

To evaluate prospectively the impact of polypropylene vaginal mesh and suburethral slings on sexual function with the use of a validated questionnaire.

Study design, materials and methods

A prospective and descriptive study of 54 women with pelvic floor disorders or stress urinary incontinence, who underwent genital prolapse surgery. 

The period of inclusion was from January to October 2009. A validated sexual questionnaire (PISQ-12) consisting of 12 questions was given to 54 patients. The questionnaire was carried out 3 months before and 3 months after the mesh placement. The types of mesh used were TVM Prolift or IVS for the correction of genital prolapse, and TVT-O for stress urinary incontinence.

Results

32 patients answered the questionnaire as sexually active and 22 patients denied having intercourse. After surgery, the sexually active women reported a higher frequency of intercourse (59% before vs. 65% after), a lower incidence of dyspareunia (62% vs. 84%) and more satisfaction (81% vs. 90%), although there were no statistically significant differences.

Interpretation of results

In our experience, the sexual function in women who underwent a placement of a vaginal mesh or sling improves. The synthetic material does not increase the rate of dyspareunia.

Concluding message

Vaginal meshes do not restrict sexual function after surgery.

Specify source of funding or grant

No

Is this a clinical trial?

No

What were the subjects in the study?

HUMAN

Was this study approved by an ethics committee?

No

This study did not require ethics committee approval because

it was a questionnaire

Was the Declaration of Helsinki followed?

Yes

Was informed consent obtained from the patients?

Yes