AVLEV - A NOVEL IDEA OF A "LEVATOR BRACE" DURING PELVIC RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY.

Introduction:
Levator ballooning and levator avulsion are being recognised as predisposing factors to causation and recurrence of genital prolapse.

Methods:
After cadaveric dissection and ultrasound, the AVLEV is seemed to be one modality of providing a levator brace to the puborectalis to prevent levator ballooning and possibly correct levator avulsion. AVLEV is now being used as a levator brace along with fascial repairs to study recurrence rates and levator function before and after surgery.

Results:
The index case has a fascial posterior repair with bilateral iliococcygeus fixation and bilateral AVLEV procedure. The AVLEV has a transobturator approach for entry and a transgluteal or transvaginal exit. The index patient showed levator ballooning preoperatively and restricted ballooning with almost intact levators post surgery. At 6 months, the patient has shown no recurrence and good symptom control. A further 20 patients are being recruited.

Conclusion:
AVLEV is a novel approach to facilitate pelvic reconstructive surgery. Applications could include concomitant use with mesh repair, prophylactic use in future to prevent prolapse.