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IS TENSION FREE TROUBLE FREE

Hypothesis / aims of study

To review the complications associated with tension free vaginal tape (TVT) surgery and to assess the role of hydro-dissection with this surgery.

Study design, materials and methods

388 cases performed between 2000 and 2008 were reviewed. The following cases were excluded – those who had undergone a previous continent procedure or major pelvic surgery; those who had significant voiding difficulties preoperatively and those who had major concomitant surgery at the time of the TVT operation. This left 233 uncomplicated cases for analysis. All cases were performed using a standard technique as described by Ulmsten⁽¹⁾ with two modifications: hydro-dissection was not employed and a cough test was not used when tensioning the tape. 180 (77.3%) procedures were done under spinal anaesthetic.

Results

The age range of the patients was from 21 to 81 years with a mean of 48.4 years. 70% (164/233) of patients had no complications. 6% (14/233) of patients had a bladder perforation at the time of surgery. In total 10.7% (25/233) developed short term voiding dysfunction. There were 7.3% (17/233) post operative LUTIs. 4.7% (11/233) of patients had to have division of their TVT performed for persistent voiding problems. At outpatient review 7.7% (18/233) had developed de novo detrusor instability. Tape exposure was noted in 2.1% (5/233) of cases.

Interpretation of results

TVT offered the first successful minimal invasive procedure for stress incontinence which has led to an increase in surgical treatment. It is important that patients are counselled regarding the potential complications which will lead to a delay in recovery.

Concluding message

The modification of omitting hydro-dissection does not appear to increase the risk of bladder perforation when compared to other large series.⁽²⁾

References

1. Ulmsten U. The basic understanding and clinical results of tension-free vaginal tape for stress urinary incontinence. Urologe A. 2001 Jul;40(4):269-73.
2. Abouassaly R, Steinberg JR, Lemieux M, Marois C, Gilchrist LI, Bourque JL, et al. Complications of tension-free vaginal tape surgery: a multi-institutional review. BJU Int. 2004 Jul;94(1):110-3.

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<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>	None needed
<i>Was the Declaration of Helsinki followed?</i>	Yes
<i>Was informed consent obtained from the patients?</i>	No