

SEXUAL FUNCTION FOLLOWING SUCCESSFUL SURGICAL CORRECTION OF SUIHypothesis / aims of study:

Objectives: To prospectively assess the effect of anti-incontinence procedures namely Transobturator tape (TVT) /Transobturator tape (TOT) for stress incontinence (SUI) on female sexual function.

Study design, materials and methods

All women (sexually active) who underwent the anti-incontinence procedure for stress urinary incontinence (SUI) with no concomitant prolapse repair during the period Jan 2003 to Dec 2008 answered a series of questionnaires prior to surgery as well as postoperatively once after 6 months and again after 12 months. Women with grade I SUI but had not undergone surgery for the same acted as controls.

Results

Only 39 patients fulfilled the criteria of inclusion. Of these only 32 patients agreed to participate and were assessed by the questionnaires. Of these 32 patients 17 had undergone TVT procedure and 15 had undergone TOT procedure. At 6 months follow-up all the 32 women had intercourse in the follow-up period, though there was no significant difference in the frequency of intercourse. At 12 months follow-up there was significant improvement in I-QOL in the women who had undergone surgery as compared to those who were not operated.

Interpretation of results

There was decreased pain, improvement in sexual frequency (not statistically significant) and overall QOL in these women.

Concluding message

Surgical correction of stress incontinence is associated with an improvement in sexual function.

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| <i>Specify source of funding or grant</i> | NIL |
| <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> | Yes |
| <i>Specify Name of Ethics Committee</i> | IEC, KLE |
| <i>Was the Declaration of Helsinki followed?</i> | Yes |
| <i>Was informed consent obtained from the patients?</i> | Yes |