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SINGLE SURGEON'S 10 YEARS RESULTS OF THE TENSION-FREE VAGINAL TAPE (TVT) PROCEDURE FOR TREATING FEMALE STRESS URINARY INCONTINENCE

Hypothesis / aims of study
The results of 10 years after the procedure of the tension-free vaginal tape (TVT) for treating female stress urinary incontinence (SUI) were evaluated.

Study design, materials and methods
Of 110 women that underwent the TVT procedure between March 1999 and December 2000, for stress urinary incontinence, 67 were followed up for at least 10 years following surgery.
Preoperatively, the patients were evaluated with history taking, physical examinations, one hour pad tests, urine analysis, urine cultures and complete multichannel urodynamic studies. Long-term evaluations were performed via questionnaires on the durability of the surgical outcome and the patients' satisfaction with the procedure. All the patients were asked about their voiding symptoms as well as any recurrence by conducting detailed telephone interviews.

Results
The follow-up period was a mean of 131.6 months. Of the 67 patients who were followed up for at least 10 years, the patients were classified according to their symptom grades; grade I (n=17, 25.4%), grade II (n=36, 53.7%) and grade III (n=14, 22.4%). the TVT procedure remained successful in 79.1% (cured: 56.7%, improved: 22.6%). 32 patients (47.8%) were very satisfied, 21 patients (31.3%) were satisfied with the TVT procedure. There were no serious or long-term complications related to the procedure.

Table 1. Pre-operative urodynamic parameters of 67 patients

Parameter (mean±SD)	n=67
Voided volume (ml)	245.9±174.9
Maximal flow rate (ml/sec)	29.4±13.4
Residual volume (ml)	12.2±16.0
Maximal cystometric capacity (ml)	468.5±94.9
Maximal detrusor pressure (cmH_2O)	27.5±14.3

Interpretation of results
The TVT procedure showed a good long-term cure rate for treating female stress urinary incontinence.

Concluding message
We consider the TVT procedure to be an effective treatment for stress urinary incontinence, with long-term durability of continence and minimal complications related to the surgery.

Specify source of funding or grant	**NONE**
Is this a clinical trial?	**No**
What were the subjects in the study?	**HUMAN**
Was this study approved by an ethics committee?	**Yes**
Specify Name of Ethics Committee	**PNUH IRB (Pusan National University Hospital Institutional Review Board)**
Was the Declaration of Helsinki followed?	**Yes**
Was informed consent obtained from the patients?	**Yes**