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Title (type in CAPITAL LETTERS)	PUBOVAGINAL SLING CYSTOURETHROPEXY IN ELDERLY WOMEN WITH URINARY INCONTINENCE

Aims of Study: Pubovaginal sling cystourethropey is a surgical treatment option for many women with genuine stress urinary incontinence (GSUI). This study examined feasibility and clinical efficacy of pubovaginal sling cystourethropey in elderly women with comparison to younger patients.

Methods: Eighty-five consecutive women who underwent pubovaginal sling cystourethropey for treatment of GSUI were reviewed. Patients were divided into 2 groups based on age: older (≥ 60 years; $n = 39$) and younger (< 60 years; $n = 46$). All patients underwent preoperative urodynamic evaluation to confirm the diagnosis of GSUI. Fascia lata sling was performed in 55 (21 older, 34 younger), rectus fascia sling in 27 (16 older, 11 younger), and vaginal wall sling in 3 (2 older, 1 younger). Operative parameters examined included anesthetic risk class, blood loss, anesthetic and surgical times, and length of postoperative hospitalization. Continence results and complications were also assessed. Data were compared using Student's t-test. Results were considered statistically significant at a 95% confidence level ($p < 0.05$).

Results: Mean patient age was 67.3 in the older group (range 60-83) and 47.7 in the younger group (range 22-59). Mean overall followup was 26.7 months. Older patients had a higher mean anesthetic risk class, anesthetic time, recovery room time, and length of hospitalization compared to the younger group (all, $p < 0.05$). The remainder of the clinical and operative parameters were statistically equivalent ($p > 0.05$). The overall complication rate was slightly higher in the older group. Postoperative continence data are summarized:

	Older (n = 39)	Younger (n = 46)
Dry	23 (59%)	34 (74%)
Significantly improved	12 (31%)	8 (17%)
Failed	2 (5%)	3 (7%)
Lost to followup	2 (5%)	1 (2%)

Conclusions: Pubovaginal sling cystourethropey appears to be a viable surgical treatment option for both elderly and younger women with GSUI. Age alone should not dissuade selection of the procedure in otherwise suitable candidates.