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Title (type in CAPITAL LETTERS)	THE TENSIONFREE VAGINAL TAPE (TVT) IN WOMEN WITH PREVIOUS FAILED INCONTINENCE SURGERY.

Aims of Study. The TVT is now a recognised form of surgical treatment for women suffering with Genuine Stress Incontinence (GSI). However, the role of the TVT in women with previously failed urinary incontinence surgery has not been fully evaluated. This study aims to report the experience from three centres (2 UK, 1 Australia) in this group of patients.

Methods. 20 women (age range 38-88) diagnosed with GSI on urodynamics were offered treatment with the TVT procedure as described in 1996(1). All had previously undergone various types of urinary incontinence surgery (29 procedures in 20 patients). No exclusions were made on the basis of the type of previous surgery (including urethral slings) and/or urethral pressure profilometry data. Pre and six week post operative urodynamics, 1 hour pad test and subjective reporting of symptoms were compared to assess the degree of successful outcome in these patients.

Results. Our data suggest a 70% successful outcome in terms of objective (urodynamic and 1 hour pad test) and subjective (patient questioning) measures in this group of patients.

Conclusions. Our preliminary results suggest that the TVT has success rates in patients with previously failed urinary incontinence surgery comparable to other reported sling procedures (2,3). Whilst data from one of the centres continues to be analysed, we hope to present data on a larger number of patients in the future. However, we are aware that there are other dimensions to the TVT procedure that need further evaluation including mechanism of action, co-morbidity and health economic evaluation. The ongoing UK multicentre study comparing the TVT to a traditional abdominal incontinence procedure will attempt to address many of these issues.

References.

- (1) Int Urogyn 1996 vol 7 : 81-85
- (2) The Journal of Urology 1995 vol 154: 1013-15
- (3) J Urol 1997 vol 8 : 875-880