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Title (type in CAPITAL LETTERS)	TRANSVAGINAL SUBURETHRAL FASCIALATA GRAFT SLING FOR THE TREATMENT OF FEMALE GENUINE STRESS INCONTINENCE

AIMS OF STUDY: A new and exclusively transvaginal approach to performing pubo-vaginal sling surgery with transvaginal-pubic bone anchors is evaluated.

METHODS: Between April 1997 and August 1998, 111 women, 30-83 years old (mean age 60), with stress incontinence were treated with an autograft (31) or allograft cadaveric (80) transvaginal pubo-vaginal sling using the Influence In-Tac transvaginal bone anchor system. All patients underwent pre-operative multichannel urodynamic evaluation. 24 patients underwent sling alone, 79 underwent concurrent vaginal repairs (49 simple and 39 complex repairs), and 8 transvaginal hysterectomies. 83 patients had suprapubic catheters and 28 urethral ones only.

RESULTS: Follow-up was 3 to 18 months. 102 (92%) patients had complete cure of their stress incontinence. 110 (99%) had either complete cure or improvement of their stress incontinence. There was only 1 (0.9%) complete failure. 48 (72%) patients had complete resolution of their pre-operative urge symptoms. 2 (2%) had de novo urge incontinence. Varying degree of urge incontinence were reported in 18 (16%) patients, however these same symptoms were present in 16 of these patients pre-operatively. Mean duration time prior to removing catheters were: 2.18 (1-8) days for the urethral ones and 8.13 (1-29) days for the suprapubic ones. Post-operative discomfort was reported as negligible to minimal.

CONCLUSIONS: The transvaginal suburethral sling with transvaginal pubic bone anchors is a safe and effective treatment for urinary stress incontinence in women.