

**Abstract Reproduction Form B-1**

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Title (type in CAPITAL LETTERS)	A LINK BETWEEN VESICOUTERINE FISTULA AND REPEAT CESAREAN SECTION CONTINUED.

Aims of Study: Causes of vesicouterine fistulas (VUFs) remain unclear. A review from 1986 [1] identified cesarean section (CS) as a contributing factor, whereas a report from 1997 suggested the role of the repeat procedure. The present study aimed to elucidate the main cause of the fistula for the period from 1990 to 1998.

Methods: The MEDLINE database was searched for terms: 'vesico(-)uterine', 'vesico(-)cervical' and 'Youssef's syndrome', in order to identify papers with well-documented VUFs. Later, cases were divided into VUFs occurring after primary or repeat CS. The test for difference between two percentages (STATISTICA for Windows 5.0 A, StatSoft Inc., Tulsa, OK, USA) compared these data with those previously reported.

Results: Forty one VUFs were clearly described regarding the causes. The Table shows the unchanged important impact of repeat CS on VUF formation since 1983.

Source	Years	# of VUFs after primary CS	# of VUFs after repeat CS	P-value for repeat CS
I. Tancer [1]	1950-1985	49.3% (35/71)	29.6% (21/71)	I vs II $P = 0.0135$
II. Report from 1997	1983-1994	29.2% (7/24)	58.3% (14/24)	II vs III $P = NS$
III. Present study	1990-1998	12.2% (5/41)	73.2% (30/41)	III vs I $P = 0.0001$

Conclusions: This study demonstrates on the grounds of world data that, as suggested in the eighties, in the nineties repeat CS has become the principal cause of VUF. We speculate that the



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altered vascularization of the region of the supravaginal septum and distortion of the bladder anatomy after primary CS facilitate direct or indirect surgical injury.

Reference

1. Tancer ML. Vesicouterine fistula - a review. *Obstet Gynecol Surv* 1986; 41: 743-753.