

Ultrasound examination of the urinary tract after hysterectomy

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As many as 30% of all women may suffer from some degree of urinary incontinence during their lifetime. Hysterectomy may produce significant anatomical changes in structures supporting the urinary bladder and urethra. The aim of our study was to evaluate lower urinary tract of women in whom abdominal hysterectomy had been performed. Transvestibular sonography for measurements of relative angles between bladder and urethra was used in 25 women (mean age $52,8 \pm 4,9$). Eight women (mean age $53 \pm 3,1$) did not show symptoms of urinary incontinence, whereas 16 (mean age $52,8 \pm 5,7$ years) had urinary stress incontinence. Posterior angle between urinary bladder and urethra during retire and pushing was measured in all patients. The medium value of this angle in women without urinary incontinence during retire was $103,2 \pm 11,51$ degrees compared to mean values measured during pushing of $108,5 \pm 5,6$ degrees. The medium value in women with urinary incontinence during retire was $115,5 \pm 8,9$ and during pushing the mean was $136,4 \pm 10,6$. Patients were scheduled to further treatment of the urinary incontinence with the use of Gaudenz questionnaire. We compared ultrasonographic findings with the Gaudenz's score. Our preliminary results indicate that transvestibular sonography could be a useful technique for initial estimation of the lower urinary tract in hysterectomized women with urinary incontinence. However, the treatment choice should be further supported with other modalities, primarily urodynamic research.