Title (type in CAPITAL LETTERS, leave one blank line before the text):
IMPLANTABLE MICROBALLOONS: AN ATTRACTIVE ALTERNATIVE IN FEMALE URINARY INCONTINENCE WITH INTRINSIC SPHINCTOR DEFICIENCY

Aims of Study  All current bulking agents employed for treating intrinsic sphincter deficiency (ISD) have significant limitations due to various side effects, technical difficulties and inadequate long-term results. Self-detachable balloon system (SDBS) was tested as a new therapeutic modality for female urinary incontinence.

Methods  SDBS which consists of the self-detachable cross-linked silicone balloon, biocompatible filler material and a delivery system was implanted. Fourteen female patients with ISD were studied prospectively. Two to five balloons were implanted per patient. Patients were followed up with pad tests and determination of Valsalva leak point pressure (VLPP) at 1, 3, 6, 12 and 18 months.

Results  With a mean follow-up of 10.1 months, 28.9%(4/14) of the patients were completely dry. 21.1%(3/14) of the patients showed socially dry and 3 patients(21.1%) showed improvement. 28.9%(4/14) of patients were deteriorated during follow-up. Three patients had spontaneous delivery of SDBS. The pad test improved from a preoperative mean of 102.1 to a postoperative mean of 22.4 g. The VLPP increased from a preoperative mean of 49.7 to a postoperative mean of 89.8 cmH2O.

Conclusions  The implantation of microballoons was thought as safe, well-tolerated, minimally invasive and clinically effective modality for the treatment of ISD.