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TENSION FREE VAGINAL TAPE IN THE MANAGEMENT OF GENUINE STRESS
INCONTINENCE: FIRST RESULTS IN URUGUAY.

Aims of study- The tension free vaginal tape (TVT) represents a minimally invasive technique in the management of female stress urinary incontinence. The aim of the present study was to evaluate the safety and efficacy of TVT procedure in the treatment of genuine stress incontinence (GSI). The preliminary results of the first experience in our country are presented.

Method- 16 patients with symptomatic and urodynamically proven GSI underwent TVT procedure, from May 1999 to February 2000. The mean age of these patients was 52 years. Thirteen (81.2 %) women had primary GSI and three (18.7 %) of these women had undergone previous incontinence surgery. No patient had pre-operative detrusor instability on urodynamics analysis. The procedures were performed under local anaesthesia with sedation (15 cases) and epidural blockade (1 case). These cases were evaluated by means of perioperative records and postoperative visits, scheduled at 2 weeks, 3 and 6 months.

Results -Mean operative time was 38.2 minutes (range 22- 65). Mean in-patient stay was 2 days (range 1-3). In 12 women the procedure was uncomplicated, of the rest one had a bladder perforation, one urinary retention and two postoperative cystitis. Postoperative urodynamics was normal in 67 % of cases and 33 % had detrusor instability.

Conclusion - Cure rate in our series was 83 % and improvement rate 17%, for a short follow-up period. In-patient stay was one night. The operation caused obstruction in only one case. The TVT procedure is an attractive new technique in the treatment of GSI that requires a short operative time and associates with low complication rate.