

## **PUBOVAGINAL SLING FOR STRESS URINARY INCONTINENCE: EFFECT ON PATIENT QUALITY OF LIFE.**

### **Aims of Study**

To report the early and medium term effects of the pubovaginal sling (PVS) on patient quality of life (QOL).

### **Methods**

Over a 2-year period, 72 females aged between 17 and 63 years (mean 46.1 years) underwent PVS for stress urinary incontinence (SUI). All data was accrued prospectively. Preoperative assessment consisted of a full history (including QOL questionnaires), physical examination, urinalysis and urodynamics. Postoperatively all patients were assessed at 6 weeks and 6 months. At these intervals each patient was questioned regarding the persistence or recurrence of SUI, presence of urge/urge incontinence and QOL was assessed using the King's Health and SF-36 questionnaires.

### **Results**

Preoperatively, 60 patients (83.3%) demonstrated type II SUI and 12 (16.7%) had type III SUI. Detrusor instability (DI) was also present in 3 patients. At 6 weeks 100% of patients remained completely dry, 8 patients complained of urgency but none complained of urge incontinence (UI). At 6 months 95% of subjects remained dry, 3 complained of recurrent SUI, 7 complained of urgency and 1 of urge incontinence. The incidence of de novo urgency was 5.5%. There were significant improvements in four of the eight domains of the SF-36, and in eight of the nine domains of the King's Health questionnaire, at both six weeks and six months follow-up.

### **Conclusions**

PV Sling is effective in the treatment of all types of SUI, with early success rates of up to 95%. The procedure is associated with minimal morbidity and has a positive impact on patient quality of life.