

**EFFECT OF PREVIOUS ANTI-INCONTINENCE SURGERY ON OUTCOME FOLLOWING PUBOVAGINAL SLING****Aims of Study**

To determine the effect of prior anti-incontinence surgery on the outcome following pubovaginal (PV) sling.

**Methods**

Between January 1996 and January 2001 a total of 208 patients underwent PV sling for stress urinary incontinence (SUI). All data was accrued prospectively. Prior to surgery each patient had a full history, physical examination, urinalysis and urodynamic studies. The outcome following surgery in those patients who had previous anti-incontinence procedures (group 1) was compared to that for the group in whom the PV sling was the first anti-incontinence procedure (group 2). All patients had a rectus fascia PV sling. Following surgery each patient was assessed at 6 weeks and 6 months respectively

**Results**

All 208 patients were included in the study. Average patient age was 40.8 years. 41 patients (19.7%) had undergone a total of 56 previous anti-incontinence procedures. For the remaining 169 patients PV sling was the first anti-incontinence procedure. Preoperative urodynamics revealed type II SUI (ALPP>60cmH20) in 122 (55.6%) patients and type III SUI (ALPP<60cmH20) in 86 (41.3%). 16 patients also demonstrated detrusor instability. At 6 weeks 87.8% of group 1 were dry compared to 96.6% of group 2 and at 6 months 85.3% of group 1 were dry compared to 95.5% of group 2. This difference in continence rates was statistically significant with a p value < 0.05.

**Conclusions**

We conclude that a history of previous anti-incontinence surgery impacts significantly on the outcome following PV sling with patients in this category achieving lower continence rates than those who have had no prior anti-incontinence surgery.