

LONG TERM CLINICAL RESULTS AND QUALITY OF LIFE ASPECTS IN AMS-800 ARTIFICIAL SPHINCTER PATIENTS

Aims of Study

The AMS-800 artificial sphincter (AS) has been well studied regarding its technical and clinical aspects. In our study we also address the subjective and quality of life (QoL) aspects.

Methods

Retrospective study on 64 prostheses implanted since 1983 in 2 women and 62 men, mean age 58 years (11-85). Incontinence resulted after TURP in 23 cases, radical prostatectomy in 25 and because of other reasons in 16 patients. Clinical and technical data were collected from the medical files. Medical failure (MF) was defined as worsening of the postoperative obtained continence result. Technical failure (TF) was defined as the need for surgical revision. Furthermore, 29 patients filled out questionnaires regarding subjective results and quality of life (I-QoL).

Results

Incontinence before implantation was 'Every day, drops' in 3% and worse in 97%. After activation of the AS 30% was completely dry, while in 48% incontinence was rated 'Sometimes, drops' The maximal incontinence was rated 'Every day, drops' in 12% of the patients. Of 37 patients with remaining incontinence after activation, 7 had detrusor instabilities on preoperative urodynamics.

MF proved to be 54% and TF 67% after 10 years of follow-up, most failures occurring in the first 3 years. Cuff, pump or balloon revision was performed 63 times in 33 patients. The AS was explanted in 13 cases. Since the introduction of the narrow-back cuff in 1987, cuff revision decreased from 70% to 19% and multiple cuff revision rate from 30 to 6%.

Patients rated their current incontinence 3 (0-8) and QoL 8.2 (5-10) on a 0 to 10 scale (0: completely dry/worst QoL, 10: completely wet/best QoL). Median I-QoL was 96 (52-109). The AS impaired sexual activity in 10% and physical activity in 41% of patients, while pain was perceived in 38%. In 94% of cases the AS was reported very easy to use. 90% of patients was satisfied with the result and 97% would again choose an AS or recommend it to a friend.

Conclusions

The implantation of an AMS-800 AS is a relatively simple procedure, but it is associated with a high revision rate. Nevertheless, patient satisfaction is very high.