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TRANS OBTURATOR VAGINAL TAPE (TOT®) FOR THE TREATMENT OF FEMALE STRESS INCONTINENCE: ONE YEAR FOLLOW-UP IN 100 PATIENTS.

Hypothesis / aims of study

The aim of this study was to evaluate the suitability of a new minimal invasive surgical procedure (TOT®) in the treatment of genuine stress incontinence and to analyze the functional results after one year of follow up.

Study design, materials and methods

150 consecutive women underwent the procedure since February 2002 under general or regional anaesthesia. Follow up was at least of one year for 100 patients with urodynamically proven genuine stress urinary incontinence (GSI). 80% of the women completed physiotherapy prior to surgery. The mean age was 57 years (range 31-85). 60% of the patients had a pure GSI. In few cases, repair of pelvic floor defects was mandatory. Collection of the data included operative time, intra and postoperative complications. Patients were postoperatively assessed at 1, 6 and 12 months. A self evaluation by questionnaires (Incontinence impact questionnaire and Urogenital distress inventory) was sent and completed at 6 and 12 months from surgery.

Results

The mean operative time was 15 minutes (8-60) and the bladder catheterization time was 0,9 day (0-2). Neither severe bleeding, haematoma nor rejection of the tape were observed. 10 minor tears of vagina, 3 perforations of the urethra and one of the bladder occurred during the learning phase. Recognized during the procedure the tape could be replaced. In 2 cases a re-intervention was necessary for tape removal. 10% of patients had voiding outflow obstruction with 2 urinary retentions and 5 urinary tract infections occurred postoperatively. After one month, 93% women were totally dry. Otherwise *de Novo* urgency occurred in 2 cases only. 86% and 80% of patients were cured at 6 and 12 months respectively. According to preoperative urethral pressure under or over 30 cm H₂O, continence rates was 76% and 89% after one year. Overall satisfaction of patients was 77% at 6 months and 74% after 1year but more than 80% women would recommend the procedure to relatives.

Concluding message

The TOT® is an, rapid, safe and effective new procedure for GSI even in cases of low urethral pressure with a follow up of one year with very few complications.