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## **LONG-TERM FOLLOWUP OF AUTOLOGOUS FASCIAL PUBOVAGINAL SLING FOR SPHINCTERIC INCONTINENCE IN WOMEN**

### **Hypothesis / aims of study**

To assess long term results of autologous fascial pubovaginal sling (PVS) surgery for women with simple stress urinary incontinence using strict objective and subjective criteria.

### **Study design, materials and methods**

Eighty patients were randomly selected from a database of 350 consecutive patients who underwent a pubovaginal sling over the years 1988-1999 and who were either cured or improved at one year. The medium term results of these patients have previously been published [1, 2]. Of these 80 patients, 51 participated, while 29 were lost to follow up (3 died, 26 relocated or had unlisted phone numbers and were unable to be reached). The previously validated Simplified Incontinence Outcome Score (SIOS) consisting of a 24 hour pad test, voiding diary, and questionnaire were administered at least 5 years post-operatively to patients who were cured or improved at 1 year.

### **Results**

Follow up ranged from 5-15 years (median 8 years). Of the 51 patients, 42 had been cured and 9 had been improved at one year. Of those that were cured, 39 were still cured, and 3 were now classified as improved due to recurrent stress incontinence, overactive bladder, or both. In the 9 patients who were improved at one year, 7 were still improved, while 2 were now considered failures. De novo urgency or urge incontinence developed in 5 patients (9.8%) at an average of 6.3 years (4.5-8) after PVS. No patient required intermittent catheterization or repeat surgery for stress incontinence.

### **Interpretation of results**

We found that 94% of patients who were cured or improved at one year were still cured or improved with long- term follow up of at least 5 years, while 3.9% were now considered failures. The rectus fascial pubovaginal sling procedure appears to be efficacious and durable using both subjective and objective outcome measures.

### **References**

1. Noninvasive outcome measures for urinary incontinence: A multicenter study of voiding diaries and pad tests. J Urol 164:698-1,2000.
2. Pubovaginal Sling Surgery for Simple Stress Urinary Incontinence: Analysis by an Outcome Score. J Urol 165:1597-0,2001.