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SUBJECTIVE UND OBJECTIVE RESULTS AFTER THE TENSION-FREE VAGINAL TAPE (TVT) OPERATION

Hypothesis / aims of study

To determine objective and subjective continence rates after the Tension-free Vaginal Tape operation (TVT, Gynecare/Ethicon).

Study design, materials and methods

384 TVT operations were performed at our institution through December 2003. 138 women (36%) had undergone previous surgery for incontinence and/or descensus. Preoperatively all patients underwent clinical examination and urodynamic testing. At 3 months clinical examination and cystoscopy with stress testing were performed. Urodynamic testing was repeated at 12 months.

Results: 298 women (77.6%) were available for follow-up examination at 3 months and 251 (65.4%) at 1 year. Subjective and objective continence rates were 76% and 74% at 3 months and 82% and 81% at 1 year, respectively. 35% of patients with prior surgery were continent at 3 months, including all 12 with a previous TVT procedure. Postoperative hematomas were evacuated in 2 patients (0.5%) and 7 tapes (1.8%) were cut because of voiding dysfunction.

Results

The TVT operation has become the standard operation for female stress incontinence at our institution.

Interpretation of results

The medium-results are comparable to those reported for Burch colposuspension.

Concluding message

Long-term studies of success and complication rates are pending. Maintaining adequate follow-up is a challenge.