

## **TRANSRECTAL ULTRASOUND MEASUREMENTS OF PERINEAL BODY CORRELATES WITH ANAL SPHINCTER DEFECTS BETTER THEN POP-Q PERINEAL BODY MEASUREMENTS IN PATIENTS WITH FECAL INCONTINENCE.**

### Hypothesis / aims of study

A perineal body measurement is considered a clinical tool in the evaluation of fecal incontinence. Perineal body is measured by Urogynecologists using the POP-Q scoring system and by colorectal surgeons using transanal ultrasound.

The aim of the study was to compare the accuracy of perineal body measurements between POP-Q scoring and transanal ultrasound.

### Study design, materials and methods

18 patients with symptoms of Fecal Incontinence were evaluated in a combined Urogynecology-Colorectal center. Fecal incontinence symptoms were evaluated using the Waxner Incontinence score (WI). All clinical and demographic data was entered into a combined database. Perineal body was measured as part of the routine POP-Q scoring system. Measurement of  $\leq 2$ cm was considered suspicious for sphincter defect. All patients underwent rectal physiology studies including transrectal ultrasound (specify probe specifics) for evaluation of the anal sphincter defects and measurements of the perineal body. Measurements of  $< 10$ mm considered to be abnormal.

### Results

The average age for patient 63 years old. Among those symptomatic patients 84 % (16/19) had a WI score of  $> 14$ . Five patients were diagnosed with anal sphincter defect. All patients with sphincter defect had Ultrasound measurements of  $< 10$ mm. 2/5 had POP-Q measurements of perineal body of  $\leq 2$ cm. ultrasound measurements.

### Interpretation of results

The POP-Q measurements of the perineal body was found to have a Positive predictive value of 28.5% and a Negative predictive value of 72.7% comparing with 100% predictive value of

### Concluding message

Preliminary data indicate that the use of POP-Q to measure perineal body is not as reliable as the transrectal ultrasound in the evaluation of possible sphincter defect as an etiology of Fecal Incontinence.