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ARGUS ADJUSTABLE MALE SLING – A NEW SURGICAL METHOD IN THE TREATMENT OF URINARY INCONTINENCE IN MEN

Hypothesis / aims of study
Male urinary incontinence is a possible complication of prostatic surgery. It causes serious psychological problems and represents a socio-economic issue as well. The aim of this study is to evaluate the efficiency of a new surgical technique using ARGUS® sling.

Study design, materials and methods
Physical and laboratory examination were performed in all patients undergoing surgery, as well as panendoscopy and urodynamic study. The follow-up was performed using a quality of life questionnaire, evaluation of the continence and neurological symptomatology and, of course uroflowmetry with post-void residual volume.

Results
Between 2005 and 2007, 21 men with incontinence grade II-III were implanted the ARGUS sling. The average age was 67.5 years (54-74). Eleven patients had undergone radical retropubic prostatectomy for prostate cancer (PCa), 4 patients transurethral resection of the prostate and 1 patient open suprapubic prostatectomy for benign prostatic hyperplasia, 4 patients had undergone radical retropubic prostatectomy followed by adjuvant radiotherapy and 1 had been after perineal application of collagen seeds. Incontinence had lasted for at least 2 years and had been resistent to any conservative therapy. Urine cultivation was negative in all patients before surgery. Complete continence was achieved in 15 (71.5%) patients, 2 patients (9.5%) were improved, failure was noted in 4 patients (19%) – all of them had undergone adjuvant radiotherapy for PCa. Post-void residual urine volume was 0-45 ml after surgery. The sling proved as non-obstructive: Qmax in free uroflowmetry ranged between 10 and 32 ml/s.

Interpretation of results
The results show an improvement of continence in 81% of 21 patients. Postoperative protrusion of the sling into the urethra was noted in 2 patients (9.5%), both of them had undergone radiotherapy. History of radiotherapy is a relative contraindication to the implantation of the sling.

Concluding message
ARGUS adjustable male sling is a promising new step in the treatment of male urinary incontinence.

Specify source of funding or grant	**NONE.**
Is this a clinical trial?	**Yes**
Is this study registered in a public clinical trials registry?	**No**
What were the subjects in the study?	**HUMAN**
Was this study approved by an ethics committee?	**Yes**
Specify Name of Ethics Committee	**Local ethical committee**
Was the Declaration of Helsinki followed?	**Yes**
Was informed consent obtained from the patients?	**Yes**