

THE ROLE OF INTROITAL ULTRASONOGRAPHY IN TREATING LOW URINARY TRACT SYMPTOMS COMPLICATING SUB-URETHRAL TAPE PLACEMENT.

Hypothesis / aims of study

To assess the role of the introital ultrasound in the evaluation of patients with low urinary tract symptoms after sub-urethral sling placement.

Study design, materials and methods

From 2000 till 2007, a total of 31 patients underwent sub-urethral tape placement for a stress urinary incontinence and developed thereafter a low urinary tract symptoms. The urological evaluation consisted of a detailed medical history, a urogynecologic examination, a complete urodynamic exam, a measurement of the post voiding residue and a introital ultrasound. All patients filled The MHU (Mesure du Handicap Urinaire) questionnaire. These patients had a transvaginal tape lysis under local anesthesia. We correlated the ultrasound findings with postoperative clinical success and failure. Data collection was done in a prospective manner.

Results

Thirty one patients with low urinary tract symptoms secondary to sling placement underwent a tape lysis. Median age was 63,1±10,9 years, the median time between the anti-incontinence surgery and the tape lysis was 21,5±16,2 months. Seven patients had only obstructive symptoms, 15 patients had obstructive and bladder overactivity symptoms and 9 patients had bladder overactivity symptoms. Introital ultrasound revealed an abnormality of the tape in 26 patients. Ten patients had a position abnormality of the tape, 5 patients had urethral angulation abnormality and 11 patients had the previous two abnormalities.

Interpretation of results

After tape lysis, the obstructive symptoms disappeared in 19 out of 22 patients (86%), the bladder overactivity symptoms disappeared in 16 out of 24 patients (66%). In case of introital ultrasound abnormalities, the tape lysis was efficient in 23 out of 26 patients (89%), while in the absence of ultrasound abnormalities (5 patients) the tape lysis was not useful in treating LUTS in all patients.

Concluding message

Ultrasonography is a useful tool in investigating post-operative low urinary tract symptoms and in the selection of patients who will benefit from tape lysis.

<i>Specify source of funding or grant</i>	No disclosures
<i>Is this a clinical trial?</i>	No
<i>What were the subjects in the study?</i>	HUMAN
<i>Was this study approved by an ethics committee?</i>	No
<i>This study did not require ethics committee approval because</i>	Not needed Not a therapeutic study.
<i>Was the Declaration of Helsinki followed?</i>	Yes
<i>Was informed consent obtained from the patients?</i>	No