

Cure Perception and Patient Satisfaction after Transobturator Suburethral Sling (TVT-O)

Introduction and Objective: The aim of this study is the evaluation of the long-term outcome of patients submitted to TVT-O procedures.

Materials and Methods: Retrospective data of TVT-O procedures from 2004 to 2010 was obtained, and an inquiry (Mar-Aug 2011) performed, in which the individual subjective perceived incontinence status (IS), sexual function, patient satisfaction, including the ICIQ-SF questionnaire were assessed and statistically analyzed.

Results: There were 804 TVT-O procedures performed and 225 inquiries (our sample) were made. Currently, 118 (52.5%) patients consider themselves cured, and 74 (32.9%) feel better; 19 (8.4%) and 14 (6.2%) consider their IS to be, respectively, the same or worse than before surgery. Table 1 lists incontinence types before and after surgery cure perception, ICIQ-SF scores and sex life changes. UI remains an element in 78.9% of leaking patients. No statistically significant differences were found as to IS, incontinence type or any other variable with increasing years after surgery. Of patients, 84.4% are satisfied, 90.2% recommend the procedure and 90.7% would repeat it, and, surprisingly, so would also 55.3% of patients presently in the same or worse state than before surgery, expecting a better outcome in a future procedure.

Characteristics	SUI before surgery (n=152)	MI before surgery (n=73)
ICIQ-SF score*	2.8±5.5	10.2±7.2
Perceived global improvement rate (PGI)	145 (95.4%)	47 (64.4%)
Patients feeling cured/healed	103 (67.8%)	15 (20.6%)
Patients feeling better	42 (27.6%)	32 (43.8%)
Patients feeling the same than before surgery	1 (0.7%)	18 (24.7%)
Patients feeling worse than before surgery	6 (3.9%)	8 (10.9%)
Leak-free patients	110 (72.4%)	18 (24.7%)
Incontinence type after surgery		
Stress Urinary Incontinence (SUI)	18 (11.8%)	2 (2.7%)
Urge Incontinence (UI)	13 (8.6%)	17 (23.3%)
Mixed Incontinence (MI)	11 (7.2%)	34 (46.6%)
Sexually active patients		n=118
Sex life improvement		35 (29.7%)
Improvement in urine leakage during intercourse		54/58 (93.1%)
Increased sexual sensitivity		2 (1.7%)
Reduced sexual sensitivity		9 (7.6%)
Dyspareunia <i>de novo</i>		3 (2.5%)
Sexual inactivity due to dyspareunia <i>de novo</i>		3/225 (1.3%)
*mean ± S.D.		

Conclusion: Most patients show better continence levels than before surgery and a significant subset of patients still mentions some degree of incontinence, mostly due to UI and MUI. Patients in the SUI group have higher PGI than those in the MI group ($p<0.001$). Perception of sex life improvement is strongly associated with reduction in urine leakage during intercourse ($p<0.001$). Sexual function usually changes for the better, but the opposite, though rare, can't be neglected. The persistence of UI/MI in the MI group and of UI in unhealed patients is statistically extremely significant ($p<0.0001$); previously undiagnosed MI or *de novo* development of UI should be suspected in unhealed patients.