

UNEXPECTED BENEFITS OF TENSION FREE VAGINAL TAPE (TVT) FOR STRESS URINARY INCONTINENCE

Hypothesis / aims of study

Urinary incontinence is a debilitating problem in women with significant effect on quality of life. The TVT improves urinary symptoms and also achieves a high rate of patient satisfaction. The aim of the study was to evaluate the effect of TVT on vaginal symptoms, pelvic floor function and in turn quality of life. We hypothesise that the TVT is associated with an improvement in pelvic floor function.

Study design, materials and methods

A prospective questionnaire-based analysis was conducted over a period of ten months in patients undergoing the TVT procedure. The ICIQ-VS questionnaire was used to evaluate the vaginal symptoms pre-operatively and 6 months post-operatively. The results were compared to assess for any significant differences.

Results

The mean patient age was 59.6 years (range, 30 to 83). A total of 31 patients fulfilled the inclusion criteria during this 10-month period. The mean VS score pre-operatively was 8.96 (SD- 7.14). The mean post-operative mean VS score was 6.45 (SD-5.9). The differences between the two scores were 'normally distributed'. There was mean improvement of 2.5 in the VS score following a TVT at six months post-operatively, which was statistically significant (paired *t* test, *p* value = 0.022536). There was a statistically significant improvement in vaginal symptom score at 6 months in women undergoing TVT along with an improvement in urinary symptoms.

Interpretation of results

This study suggests a positive impact of TVT insertion on vaginal symptomatology, which is an exciting prospect underlining patient counselling for treatment options of urinary stress incontinence. This finding may have an impact on performing concomitant surgeries for stress incontinence and pelvic organ prolapse. There is a need for further large-scale research to explore this aspect of unexpected benefit from the TVT.

Concluding message

Tension free vaginal tape (TVT) positively benefit vaginal symptoms (prolapse), which may have implications for patient counselling and concomitant surgery.

References

1. ICIQ-Vaginal Symptoms Questionnaire. Link: <http://www.iciq.net/ICIQ-VS.html>

Disclosures

Funding: None **Clinical Trial:** No **Subjects:** HUMAN **Ethics not Req'd:** Audit of clinical practice. Use of questionnaires only - hence ethical approval not deemed required. **Helsinki:** Yes **Informed Consent:** Yes