

LAPAROSCOPIC SACRAL COLPOPEXY IN TREATMENT OF VAGINAL VAULT PROLAPSE: ASSESSMENT OF EFFICACY AND CLINICAL RESULTS

Thesis

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَقَدْ أَعْمَلُوا فَسَيَرَى اللَّهُ عَمَلَكُمْ
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List of Contents

	Page
Acknowledgment	--
List of Abbreviations	i
List of Tables	iii
List of Figures	iv
Introduction and Aim of The Work	1
Review of Literature	4
Chapter 1 : The Anatomy of Female Pelvic Floor..	6
Chapter 2 : Pelvic organ prolapse	37
Chapter 3 : Laparoscopic Sacral Colpopexy	100
Patients and methodology	124
Results	138
Discussion	149
Summary and Conclusion	161
Recommendations	164
References	165
Appendix	193
Arabic Summary	--

List of Abbreviations

ASC	: Abdominal sacrocolpopexy
ATFP	: Arcus tendineus fasciae pelvis
ATLA	: The arcus tendineus levator ani
BMI	: Body mass index
CL	: Cardinal ligament
EAS	: External anal sphincter
EUL	: External urethral ligament
GH	: Genital hiatus
GI	: Gastro- intestinal
ICS	: International continence society
LMA	: The longitudinal muscle of the anus
LP	: Levator plate posteriorly.
LSC	: Laparoscopic sacral- colpopexy
MDCT	: Multi detector CT
MRI	: Magnetic resonant imaging
NIH	: National institute of health
NSAIDS	: Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs
PB	: The perineal body
PCF	: Pubocervical fascia
PCM	: Pubococcygeus muscle
PFDI	: Pelvic Floor Distress Inventory
PFIQ	: Pelvic Floor Impact Questionnaire
POP	: Pelvic organ prolapse
POP-Q	: Pelvic Organ Prolapse Quantification
PPRST	: Preoperative prolapse reduction stress testing
PRM	: Puborectalis muscle
PUL	: Pubourethral ligament
PVL	: Pubovesical ligament
RALSC	: Robotic assisted laparoscopic sacrocolpopexy
RVF	: Rectovaginal fascia

List of Abbreviations (Cont.)

SUI	: Stress urinary incontinence
TOT	: Trans-obturator tape
TVL	: Total vaginal length
TVM	: Total vaginal polypropylene mesh
USL	: Cardinal-uterosacral ligament complex
UTI	: Urinary tract infection
UUI	: Urge urinary incontinence
VVP	: Vaginal vault prolapse

List of Tables

Table	Title	Page
1	POP staging criteria.	57
2	Comparison of selected surgical techniques for vaginal vault and posterior wall prolapse repair.	81
3	Number of patients suffering from POP in different compartments.	139
4	Relation between Backache as a postoperative complication and BMI.	143
5	Mean values of the scores of PFDI and PFIQ questionnaires before and after the procedure (Wilcoxon test).	144
6	Comparison between median grade of POP before and after LSC.	146
7	Comparison between POP grades in different compartments before and after LSC (Chi Square test).	146

List of Figures

Fig.	Title	Page
1	Bony pelvis	8
2	A)anterior view of the bony pelvis, B) and C) are coronal and anterior view.	8
3	A diagram showing the bony attachments of sacro-tuberous and sacro-spinous ligaments	9
4	(A): The diameters of the female minor pelvis: A, sacroiliac joint; B, iliopubic eminence; C and D, middle of pelvic brim; E, sacral promontory; F, pubic symphysis. (B): The female pelvis from above: The sacrospinous ligament extends from the ischial spines to the lateral margins of the sacrum and coccyx anteriorly to the sacrotuberous ligament, which extends from the ischial tuberosity to the coccyx.	9
5	The suspensory ligaments of urethra. Incision: left paraurethral sulcus.	10
6	The cardinal and uterosacral ligaments provide support to the cervix and indirectly to the bladder base.	11
7	Sagittal view shows suspensory ligaments of urethra	12
8	Diagram demonstrating the arcus tendentious fasciae pelvis and arcus tendentious levator ani	13
9	A schematic 3D sagittal section of the main connective tissue structures of the pelvis, showing their relationship to the organs and pelvic bones	15
10	Vaginal attachments to ATRP.	16

Fig.	Title	Page
11	Levels of vaginal support after hysterectomy.	17
12	Fascial attachments and tensioning mechanism.	19
13	A schematic 3D sagittal section of the main connective tissue structures of the pelvis.	20
14	Role of the cervical ring in the connectedness of pelvic fascia.	21
15	pelvic diaphragm	22
16	Anterosuperior view of pelvic diaphragm	23
17	Diagram showing the components of the levator ani muscles	26
18	Position of the perineal membrane and its associated components of the striated urogenital sphincter.	27
19	Muscles of the perineum	28
20	The 2 major muscular supporting structures	29
21	Pelvis with organs and muscles – Muscles are brown colours with striations	30
22	Interaction of the upper and lower muscles of the pelvic floor	30
23	The striated pelvic muscles and organs of the pelvic floor.	31
24	Sagittal cut of pelvic floor muscles	31
25	Upper layer of muscles of the pelvic floor floor	32
26	Longitudinal muscle of the anus (LMA)– origins and insertions.	33
27	Lower layer muscles of the pelvic floor anchor the organs distally	35
28	Puborectalis muscle (PRM)	36
29	Stage II prolapse.	54
30	The POP-Q system.	57

Fig.	Title	Page
31	During straining for defecation, the bladder vaginal apex descends abnormally.	62
32	Different types of pessaries	69
33	Ring pessary without support in place; patient with cervix and uterus.	69
34	Gellhorn pessary in place; patient with cervix and uterus.	70
35	Anterior colporrhaphy.	75
36	Paravaginal repair	76
37	Diagram of a paravaginal repair	76
38	Diagram of a paravaginal repair	77
39	Technique of posterior colporrhaphy with rectovaginal tissue plication	78
40	Completed uterosacral vaginal vault suspension with anterior colporrhaphy	80
41	Vaginal enterocele repair.	83
42	Modified McCall culdoplasty.	84
43	Sacrospinous fixation: A longitudinal incision is given in the posterior vaginal wall to expose the rectovaginal space.	86
44	Sites for attachment during surgery for vaginal vault prolapse and enterocele repair including the ileococcygeus fascia	88
45	Uterosacral suspension	89
46	Uterosacral suspension Stitches are placed through an open vaginal cuff into the uterosacral ligament	90
47	Total colpocleisis.	93
48	Abdominal sacral colpopexy: Synthetic graft material is sutured securely to vaginal cuff using multiple interrupted permanent sutures.	96

Fig.	Title	Page
49	Abdominal sacral colpopexy.	96
50	Sagittal T2-weighted MR image of 28-year old woman with pelvic organ prolapse shows treatment principles of sacrocolpopexy with double mesh placement.	104
51	Photographs show different steps of laparoscopic procedure in 58-year old woman.	106
52	Photograph shows staples that can be used for sacrocolpopexy	107
53	Urinoma after laparoscopic sacrocolpopexy.	109
54	54-year-old woman with ureteral dilatation 7 days after laparoscopic sacrocolpopexy	110
55	58-year-old woman with small-bowel obstruction.	111
56	54-year-old woman with anterior hematoma after laparoscopic sacrocolpopexy.	113
57	55-year-old woman with recurrence of cystocele after having undergone surgery to correct cystocele.	114
58	53-year-old woman with peritoneal inclusion cyst that developed after laparoscopic sacrocolpopexy.	117
59	66-year-old woman with L5–S1 spondylodiscitis related to fistulization of meshes in rectum and subsequent infection.	118
60	MR appearances of postoperative sacrocolpopexy in patient with dyschezia and in another patient without dyschezia.	119

Fig.	Title	Page
61	60-year-old woman with paradoxical puborectalis contractions and symptoms of outlet obstruction after laparoscopic sacrocolpopexy.	120
62	MR images of 60-year-old woman with history of abdominal sacrocolpopexy.	122
63	49-year-old woman who underwent laparoscopic sacrocolpopexy with use of staples for fixation of meshes on vagina.	123
64	Baden walker classification and POP-Q system	126
65	First step is Dissection of sacral promontory	132
66	Dissection of right retroperitoneal tissue with incision of the peritoneum	132
67	Dissection of rectouterine pouch	133
68	Dissection of vesicouterine pouch	133
69	Fixation of posterior mesh	134
70	Fixation of anterior mesh common limb	134
71	Passage of anterior mesh	135
72	Anchoring of the meshes	135
73	Closing of peritoneum	136
74	Mean value of PFDI questionnaire before and after the procedure	144
75	Mean value of PFIQ questionnaire before and after the procedure.	155
76	Pre and Postoperative grades of Cystocele	147
77	Pre and Postoperative grades of Uterine Prolapse / VVP	147
78	Pre and Postoperative grades of Rectocele	148

Introduction

Pelvic organ prolapse (POP) is one of many pelvic floor disorders in women. Prolapse is a protrusion of the vaginal walls and/or uterus, resulting from descent of the pelvic organs. In general, “vaginal prolapse” includes multiple categories of pelvic support problems, such as uterine prolapse, posthysterectomy vaginal vault prolapse, anterior vaginal wall prolapse (cystocele), and posterior vaginal wall prolapse (rectocele). These various support defects can occur in isolation or in combination with one another (*Siddique and Edenfield, 2014*).

POP is highly prevalent and it has been estimated that 50% of parous women have some degree of POP, but only 20% of these are symptomatic (*Akladios et al., 2010; Maher et al., 2013*).

The etiology is multifactorial, and includes known risk factors of pregnancy and childbirth, increasing age, obesity, hysterectomy, connective tissue abnormalities, and conditions associated with increased abdominal strain (*Jelovesk et al., 2007*).

Uterine descent is often associated with coexistent anterior, posterior vaginal wall prolapse and/or an enterocele. The commonly associated symptoms of anterior vaginal wall prolapse are urinary frequency, urgency, incontinence, intermittent flow, straining to void, feeling of incomplete bladder emptying and poor stream. Symptoms associated with posterior vaginal wall prolapse include difficulty in defecation with excessive straining to empty the bowels, feeling of incomplete bowel emptying, constipation and manual evacuation with digital assistance. The sensation of ‘something coming down’, urinary, bowel and/or sexual symptoms are universally described as ‘prolapse symptoms’.

However, there are very little data correlating symptoms with physical findings or the relationship of specific symptoms to prolapse of the anterior, posterior and central compartments (*Nygaard et al., 2008; Uzoma and Farag, 2009*).

Evaluation of POP is often limited to physical examination. Additional tools include various imaging modalities, urodynamic tests and urine analysis (*Walters et al., 2005*). Pelvic Organ Prolapse Quantification (POP-Q) is an objective and standardized system of prolapse classification introduced in 1996, by the International Continence Society. It is a useful tool in assessing the extent of prolapse. It has the added advantage of its use in evaluating surgical and nonsurgical treatment outcomes and for clinical research purposes (*Bump et al., 1996; Maher et al., 2013*).

The two main nonsurgical treatment options for POP - pelvic floor muscle strengthening and pessary use - are often either unacceptable to patients or simply unsuccessful, leaving pelvic reconstructive surgery as the only treatment option (*Culligan, 2012*).

The goal of surgical repair for POP is to return the pelvic organs to their original anatomical positions (*Lee and Raz, 2011*). Surgery for genital prolapse is traditionally performed via an abdominal or vaginal approach. Abdominal sacrocolpopexy with mesh was initially described in 1958 by *Huguier and Scali*. The prolapsed vagina is restored to its natural position by attaching a synthetic mesh from the top and back of the vagina to the anterior longitudinal ligaments of the sacrum. Sacrocolpopexy is the treatment of choice for women with female POP associated with symptoms, with subjective success rates ranging from 76 to 100% (*Barber et al., 2005; Claerhout et al., 2009*).

Abdominal sacrocolpopexy is associated with a lower rate of recurrence and dyspareunia than with vaginal sacrospinous colpopexy (*Maher et al., 2010*). However, laparotomy involves longer recovery times than the vaginal approach which is quicker and cheaper to perform and women return earlier to activities of daily living (*Rivoire et al., 2007*).

In 1994, *Nezhat et al.* reported the first case series of 15 patients who underwent laparoscopic sacral colpopexy. The apical cure rate for that cases series was 100 %. The technique has since acquired widespread acceptance among pelvic floor surgeons (*Mustafa et al., 2012*).

Laparoscopic sacrocolpopexy provides the potential to combine the success rate of an abdominal approach with the faster recovery time associated with a minimally invasive technique (*Rivoire et al., 2007*).

The laparoscopic approach enables the performance of a highly successful abdominal procedure, while avoiding large abdominal incision, abdominal packing, and extensive bowel manipulation (*Mustafa et al., 2012*). In addition to providing minimally invasive access to the pelvis, the laparoscopic approach contributes to superior visualization of the operative field because of magnification of the image, concentration of the light at the site of surgical action, and visualization of the tissue and instruments at selected distances. This improved visualization makes the ureter and rectum readily identifiable, and therefore the surgeon's ability to avoid injury to these structures is enhanced than in the vaginal approach (*Miklos et al., 2002; Wattiez et al., 2003; culligan et al., 2003*).

An additional potential advantage of the laparoscopic approach is the ability to use permanent suture for vault suspension, as the sutures are placed and knots tied outside of