

The Resurrection of the Laparoscopic Burch Colposuspension

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Ulf Ulmsten's tension free transvaginal mid urethral tape had become the gold standard for treatment of stress urinary incontinence since its invention in 1996. Since its inception, the vaginal mesh kit evolved. Riding on the success of the transvaginal tape to treat incontinence, the vaginal mesh was fashioned to treat an entirely different pathology of prolapse. Its introduction took the world by storm with the promise of reduced operating time, reduced surgical failures and better anatomical reconstruction. The early exuberance was quickly cooled by complications that came together with mesh kits: vaginal pain, dyspareunia and mesh erosions. The Food and Drug Administration issued safety communications in 2008 and 2011 on the efficacy and complications that vaginal mesh kits produce. Sentiments were further exacerbated by a spate of high profile lawsuits including Christine Scott vs Kannappan (%5.5million payout, July 2012) and Linda Goss vs Ethicon (\$11.1 million payout, March 2013). The sombre mood regarding mesh use had seen a dramatic reduction in the number of mesh kits used for prolapse repair.

Despite the FDA being specific regarding its warning with respect to vaginal mesh kits only and not mid urethral tapes, the hysteria over the use of synthetic implants have spilled over into the original mid urethral slings devised by Ulf Umsten, especially among patients and lawyers. Worldwide campaigns and petitions were started to curb the use of synthetic material in the vaginal. In Scotland, the use of transvaginal midurethral tape was suspended and the climate of fear and litigation continues to propagate. Not surprisingly, patients begin to ask for alternative treatment other than the transvaginal midurethral tape to treat incontinence.

We have resurrected the laparoscopic burch colposuspension, a procedure that had long been abandoned since the introduction of the midurethral sling. And we predict that this procedure will begin to see a rise in utilisation again.

Keywords : Burch Colposuspension, incontinence, Transvaginal tension free tape

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