Mesh complications in female pelvic floor reconstructive surgery and their management: A systematic review

Hemendra N. Shah, Gopal H. Badlani
Wake Forest University School of Medicine, Department of Urology, Medical Center Boulevard, Winston-Salem, NC, country USA.

ABSTRACT
We reviewed the incidence, predisposing factors, presentation and management of complications related to the use of synthetic mesh in the management of stress urinary incontinence and pelvic organ prolapse repair. Immediate complications, such as bleeding, hematoma, injury to adjacent organs during placement of mesh and complication of voiding dysfunction are not discussed in this review, since they are primarily related to technique. A PubMed search of related articles published in English was done from April 2008 to March 2011. Key words used were urinary incontinence, mesh, complications, midurethral sling, anterior prolapse, anterior vaginal repair, pelvic organ prolapse, transvaginal mesh, vault prolapse, midurethral slings, female stress urinary incontinence, mesh erosion, vaginal mesh complications, and posterior vaginal wall prolapse. Since there were very few articles dealing with the management of mesh-related complications in the period covered in the search we extended the search from January 2005 onwards. Articles were selected to fit the scope of the topic. In addition, landmark publications and Manufacturer and User Facility Device Experience (MAUDE) data (FDA website) were included on the present topic. A total of 170 articles were identified. The use of synthetic mesh in sub-urethral sling procedures is now considered the standard for the surgical management of stress urinary incontinence. Synthetic mesh is being increasingly used in the management of pelvic organ prolapse. While the incidence of extrusion and erosion with midurethral sling is low, the extrusion rate in prolapse repair is somewhat higher and the use in posterior compartment remains controversial. When used through the abdominal approach the extrusion and erosion rates are lower. The management of mesh complication is an individualized approach. The choice of the technique should be based on the type of mesh complication, location of the extrusion and/or erosion, its magnitude, severity and potential recurrence of pelvic floor defect.

Key words: Anterior vaginal repair, mesh complications, mid-urethral sling, pelvic organ prolapse, stress urinary incontinence

INTRODUCTION
Increasing use of biomaterials, most often non-absorbable meshes, resulted in a dramatic shift in surgical techniques, use of commercial kits and...
Complications of surgery for SUI / POP

- Technique (procedure/surgeon) based:
  - Viscera (bladder, urethra, bowel) injury
  - Large vessel injury
  - Thigh/pelvic hematoma
  - Infection
  - Obstruction/tight mesh

- Product (Synthetic mesh) based:
  - Extrusion
  - Dyspareunia
  - Contracture
  - Deformity
  - Pain
  - Infection/abscess

Others:- Denovo urgency, etc

Figure 1: Classification of complications of surgery for female stress urinary incontinence and pelvic organ prolapse surgery employing prosthetic material

impact on the patient’s quality of life and add to the cost of healthcare. Clinicians’ understanding of mesh-related complications and their proper management would result in improved outcome.

**Clinical need for use of mesh in stress urinary incontinence and pelvic organ prolapse**

Procedures for pelvic reconstruction utilizing native tissue are associated with a high recurrence rate. This treatment failure can be attributable to the technique or defect in native tissues. Scarring and sclerosis produced by the standard pelvic reconstructive surgical procedures can restore only 50% of the preoperative tissue strength. Reduced amount of collagen in connective tissue matrices in stress urinary incontinence (SUI) women compared to unaffected women has been demonstrated. Data suggest that the process responsible for reduced collagen content in the tissues of women with SUI is not limited to the pubocervical fascia, but represents a systemic process detectable in tissues not involved in support of pelvic organs. Collagenase activity in the conditioned media from skin and pubocervical fascia biopsy explant cultures is higher in biopsies taken from women with SUI; that circulating collagenolytic activity is higher in women with SUI and that urinary levels of collagen degradation products are higher in women with SUI, all provide supportive evidence for increased collagenolysis in the etiology of SUI. Hence, in a recently published randomized control trial, recurrences of anterior vaginal prolapse were higher in the colporrhaphy group vs. reinforcement by mesh.

To overcome these disadvantages of local tissue, autologous material like autologous fascia lata or rectus sheath were employed. But these required secondary harvesting procedure with increased operating time and its attendant morbidity, and furthermore have a size limitation for their use in prolapse surgery. Hence, non-autologous, biodegradable material came into use. However, the main problem with these materials was the unpredictability of grafts, variable preparation (retained DNA), cost of biomaterials and bacterial adherence to some, e.g. bovine pericardium.

Over the last decade, synthetic materials have gradually become the primary material of choice for managing SUI in females. Their popularity is related to the avoidance of a secondary harvesting site, decreased surgical time and similar efficacy in comparison with autologous slings. The safety and durability of tension-free vaginal tape (TVT) has been confirmed by various meta-analyses and long-term (up to 11.5 years) data (Tables 1 and 2). The use of synthetic mesh in prolapse repair is widespread, however, it remains controversial.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

A PubMed search was made with key words “urinary incontinence”, “mesh”, “complications”, “mid-urethral sling”, “anterior prolapse”, “anterior vaginal repair”, “pelvic organ prolapse”, “transvaginal mesh”, “vault prolapse”, “female stress urinary incontinence”, “mesh erosion”, “vaginal mesh complications”, “posterior vaginal wall prolapse” for all available English literature from April 2008 to March 2011. All the articles reporting on the use of graft in female pelvic reconstructive surgery (SUI and/ or pelvic organ prolapse (POP) were selected to assess incidence and type of various complications associated with these surgeries. Since there were very few article dealing with the management of mesh-related complications in the period covered in the search we extended the search from January 2005 onwards. Articles were selected to fit scope of the topic, i.e. dealing with mesh complications and their management. In addition, landmark publications on the etiopathogenesis and management of mesh complications before 2008 and Manufacturer and User Facility Device Experience (MAUDE) data were included on the present topic. A total 170 articles were identified.

**Types of synthetic mesh**

In 1997, Amid categorized synthetic materials used in abdominal hernia based on their properties including pore size and fiber type. Unique mesh characteristics that are necessary in pelvic organ reconstruction include ease of use, the capability to incorporate host tissue with reduced risk for erosion, infection and extrusion, and non-carcinogenic. Grafts differ in their sources (synthetic or biological), composition (mono-filament or multi-filament), pore size, flexibility and architecture (knitted or woven). Type I monofilament, macroporous polypropylene mesh is the currently preferred synthetic material for use as graft since the large pore size (> 75 µm) facilitates infiltration of the mesh by macrophages, fibroblast and blood vessels. Thus host tissue in-growth is promoted resulting in good support and minimizing the risk of infection. A “light-weight” Type 1 mesh is created by decreasing the polypropylene density thereby causing less foreign-body response and
improving tissue compliance. This might cause less contraction or shrinkage of the mesh and allow for better tissue incorporation. Type II monofilament microporous mesh allows bacterial infiltration; however, angiogenesis and fibroplasias are prevented because macrophage infiltration of the mesh and fibroblast incorporation is deterred due to small pore size (< 10 µm). These result in higher risk of infection that is difficult to treat. Type III multifilament mesh have interstices that are <10 µm and bacteria (<1 µm) can replicate within these interstices. However, access to macrophages and ability to fight bacterial colonization within the interstices is impaired. There is also increased risk of bacterial adherence due to increased surface area of mesh. Type IV meshes are sub-microporous coated biomaterials with pores of <1 µm. They are sparingly used in pelvic reconstructive surgery.

**MESH COMPLICATIONS**

**Mesh erosion**
Recently, the International Urogynecological Association (IUGA) and International Continence Society (ICS) jointly published the terminology and classification of the complications related directly to the insertion of prostheses (meshes, implants, tapes) and grafts in female pelvic floor surgery.[17] The important definitions given by them include-

---

**Table 1: Review of studies evaluating long term outcome of TVT for SUI published in last 3 years**

| Author/ Year of publication | Country     | Number of Patients | Mean follow-up (yrs) | Cure rate (%) | Complications                                                                 |
|-----------------------------|-------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Nilsson CG [9]              | Finland     | 90                 | 11.5                 | 90            | Not specified, No erosion, Not specified                                    |
| Song PH [10]                | Korea       | 306                | > 7 (92.3 months)    | 84.6          | Inguinal/suprapubic pain 0.9%, mesh exposure 5.2% |
| Olsson I [11]               | Sweden      | 147                | 11.5                 | 84            | No erosion, Denovo urgency 21.6%                                              |

**Table 2: Review of Metaanalysis evaluating safety and efficacy of various midurethral slings for SUI published in last 3 years**

| Author/ Year of publication/ Study period | Number of Patients/ Article included | Type of Mesh Or kit | Cure rate (%)/ follow-up | Intraoperative (surgeon related) | Mesh related | Others | Comments |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|--------|----------|
| Long CY [12] / 2009/ Jan 08 to March 09 | 11 RCT included/not specified       | TVT vs. (TOT + TVT-O) | TVT better than TOT/TVT-O since more obstructive; especially if max. urethral closure pressure is <40. | Bladder perforations more in TVT but not impossible with TOT; Vaginal perforation more with TOT. | Vaginal erosions more in TOT; Groin/thigh pain more with TOT; TVT-O more painful since needle passes close to adductor muscles and obturator nerve. | TVT more obstructive as evident by residual urine estimation and Urodynamic study; Denovo urgency and UTI-similar in both groups | Primary outcome reporting inconsistent (i.e.- objective cure, subjective cure, QOL, reoperation rate); Outcome assessed at variable period. |
| Latthe PM [13] / 2009/ All studies till Dec 08. | 31 RCT/ 4796 patients included     | TVT vs. TOT vs. TVT-O | TVT & TOT cure rate similar to TVT at 1 to 44 month follow-up. | Bladder injury, hematoma more in TVT; Vaginal injury more with TOT group. | Mesh erosion similar in all groups. Groin/thigh pain more in TOT group | Denovo urgency and voiding difficulty similar | Cure reporting inconsistent and outcome assessed at variable period (1-44 months) |
| Rehman H [14] / 2011/ NS               | 26 trials 2284 patients             | Traditional suburethral slings | NS                      | NS                              | NS             | NS      | Traditional slings as effective as minimally invasive slings, but had higher rates of adverse effects. |

NS: Not specified; RCT: Randomized control trial
Exposure
A condition of displaying, revealing, exhibiting, or making accessible (e.g., vaginal mesh visualized through separated vaginal epithelium).

Extrusion
Passage gradually out of a body structure or tissue (e.g., a loop of tape protruding into the vaginal cavity).

Perforation
Abnormal opening into a hollow organ or viscus.

They recommend, “the generic term of erosion (medically defined as the “state of being worn away, as by friction or pressure”), does not necessarily suit the clinical scenarios encountered and hence its use should be best avoided”. However, most publications reviewed have used the term erosion synonymously with extrusion. Hence while reviewing the literature and in tables, we have used the term “erosion” to include exposure, extrusion and perforation.

Incidence
Incidence of mesh erosion (including exposure, extrusion and perforation) initially described in the literature varies widely from 0–33%. In a recent meta-analysis, Abed et al., studied 110 articles that included 11,785 patients and noted that the mean incidence of graft erosion was 10.3%. In the last three years, the reported rate of mesh erosion after surgery for female SUI was 0–7.3% [Tables 3-7]. This was low in comparison with the 0–21% incidence reported in various randomized control trials and prospective studies published on POP surgeries by vaginal approach [Tables 8 and 9]. By virtue of its inherent limitation, the retrospective studies published on POP surgeries by vaginal approach noted relatively lower incidence (0–11.9%) of mesh erosion [Table 10].

Risk factors
There are no studies powered to look at the risk factors for mesh erosion following pelvic reconstructive surgery with synthetic mesh. These risk factors can be broadly divided into patient-related, mesh-related and technique or procedure-related.

Patient-related:- Patient-related risk factors include extreme of age and estrogen deficiency, severe genital atrophy, prior surgical scarring, diabetes, steroid use, and smoking. Kaufman et al., identified younger age and sexual activity as a risk factor for mesh erosions. However Kim et al., noted similar extrusion rates in patients younger or older than 70 years. In two retrospective series dealing with the outcome of POP repair on patients with age > 80 years, no mesh erosions were identified. Cindiff GW et al. noted smoking to be associated with increased risk of mesh erosions.

Mesh related:- Type and size of mesh may have an implication on the rate of erosions. Cindiff et al., noted that expanded PTFE meshes (Type II) were associated with a higher rate of mesh erosion then non-PTFE meshes (19% vs. 5%). Silicone-coated polyethylene or polyester (Type IV) can also serve as a focus for chronic infection increasing the possibility of erosions and infections up to 23.8%. Yamada et al., noted high vaginal erosion with the use of polypropylene non-knitted, non-woven mesh (Obtape). It was hypothesized that composite mesh might minimize mesh-related complications. However, this was not noted in clinical practice [Table 11]. Other modifications of commercially available kits like trocarless mesh system and non-anchored mesh system were also associated with mesh exposure of 5% and 8% respectively [Table 11].

Procedure or surgeon-related:- Concomitant surgery, especially hysterectomy was found to increase the risk of mesh erosion. Contrary to these reports, Stepanian et al., found that there was no increase in the risk of mesh extrusion or other mesh-related complications with concomitant hysterectomy. Similarly, combining surgery for SUI and POP were not associated with any increase in mesh-related complications [Table 12].

Ganj et al., believe that the most important factor to reduce mesh complications is to minimize the length of the incisions and closure of the incisions without tension. Anchoring the mesh may also be associated with a lower mesh erosion rate by preventing ‘puckering’ movement and extrusion through the vaginal incision. Margulies et al., identified...
Table 3: Review of RCT on various treatments for SUI published in last 3 years (except mini-slings and adjustable slings)

| Author/ Year of publication | Number of Patients & Type of procedure | Cure rate (%)/ follow-up | Complications |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|
|                             |                                       |                          | Intraoperative (surgeon related) | Mesh related | Others                          |
|                             |                                       |                          | Bladder injury 5.5% (TVT)         | Not specified | Intermittent self catheterization 9.9%-high in autologous sling; Reoperation 19.5% with pelvicol |
| Guerrero KL[20] 2010*       | TVT (72) vs. Pelvicol (50) vs. autologous fascia (72) | Dry rate 55% (TVT), 22% (Pelvicol), 48% (fascia) at 1 year |                           |               |                                 |
| Wadie BS [21] 2010          | Pubovaginal sling (39) vs. TVT (24)    | Pubovaginal-93.6% TVT- 95.2% at 54 month | Blood loss (1% TVT-O only); bladder injury (1% with TVT-O only); vaginal perf (1% with TVT-O only); Retention 2.2% (TVT-O), 3.1% (TVT-S). | Extrusion - 4.1% (TVT) | NS |
| Freeman R [22] 2011 Multicentric | TOT (85) vs. TVT (95)                  | TOT 65.5%; TVT 63.4% at 1 year | Bladder perf (2.1% with TVT only); vaginal wall perf (4.7% with TOT only); voiding difficulty 5.2% (TVT), 5.9% (TOT); | Exorision 3.5% (TOT), 2.1% (TVT); groin pain 9.4% (TOT), 1% (TVT); | UTI 7.3% (TVT), 2.3% (TOT); denovo urgency 4.2% (TVT), 4.7% (TOT); wound infection 2.3% (only with TOT); vaginal discharge 4.7% (only with TOT) |
| Hinoul P [23] 2011† Multicentric | TVT secur (96) vs. TVT-O (98)          | TVT-S-83.6%, TVT-O 97.6% | Blood loss (1% TVT-O only); bladder injury (1% with TVT-S only); vaginal perf (1% with TVT-S only); | Exposure 7.3% (TVT-S), 1% (TVT-O) | UTI 6.3% (TVT-S), 2.1% (TVT-O) |
| Paparella R [24] 2010       | 34- Uretex TO (synthetic) vs. 36- Pelvilace TO (biological) | Uretex TO- 88.2%, Pelvilace TO 88.8% at 3 year | No retention | No extrusion or erosion or pain | No infection |
| Deffieux X 2010 [25]        | 75/74 TVT vs. TVT-O                   | TVT- 94%, TVT-O 97 % at 24 month | Bladder injury 5% (TVT), 2% (TVT-O); Urethral injury 0.7% (TVT); No bowel injury, bleeding or hematoma | Erosion 0.74% (TVT-O) | NS |
| Total                       | 850 patients                          |                          |                           | Erosion/ exposure 0-7.3%; pain-0-9.4% |               |

(*-company sponsored 2 years only; †-financial interest with company)

Mesh folding in nine out of 13 patients suffering from vaginal mesh extrusion. Authors believed that mesh folding might be an important contributing factor in mesh exposure because a folded mesh does not lie flat against the vaginal wall.[98] Placement of sling in a plane too close to the urethra or the presence of inadequate vaginal tissue coverage, poor vaginal tissue vascularity, or bacterial infection secondary to a draining hematoma or seeding of the mesh may lead to early sling erosions/extrusions.[99]

In a meta-analysis of 11 randomized control trials (RCT), Long et al., noted a higher incidence of vaginal erosions after mid-urethral sling placement by transobturator route. However, this was not confirmed by Latthe et al., in their meta-analysis of 31 RCT [Table 2].[12,13] Lee et al., modified the technique and recommended “canal transobturator-tape (TOT)” in which two oblique lateral incisions were made in the anterior vaginal wall and a suburethral canal was created between the incisions.[38] Mesh was transferred beneath the canal. Authors felt that canal TOT more precisely dissects the layer between the periurethral fascia and the urethra thereby reducing the rate of erosions. Adjustable slings were introduced to minimize the incidence of postoperative voiding dysfunction after surgery for SUI. Surprisingly, there was no incidence of mesh erosion in 365 patients reportedly treated with these slings in the last three years [Table 6].[39-42]

On comparing various approaches for POP repair, laparoscopic or robotic approach was associated with a lower incidence of mesh-related complications when compared with vaginal approach [Table 13].[100-107] A crucial factor, which has made the most significant impact on the extrusion rate, is the depth of the vaginal dissection, i.e. raising full-thickness vaginal flaps is believed to minimize erosions.

Clinical presentation
The presenting symptoms vary depending on the organ involved. For example, vaginal mesh extrusion may result
Table 4: Review of comparative studies (prospective and retrospective) evaluating safety and efficacy of various midurethral slings for SUI published in last 3 years

| Author/Year of publication/Study type | Number Patients/Type of Procedure | Cure rate (%)/follow-up | Complications |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
|                                      |                                  |                         |               |
|                                      |                                  | TVT- 87.7%, TVT-O- 80.1%; TOT- 82.1% at 8 months | Bladder perforation 3.5% (TVT), 0.8% (TVT-O), 1.5% (TOT); Hematoma 1.2% (TVT), 0.55(TVT-O), 0% (TOT); Retention 1.6% (TVT), 0.5% (TVT-O), 1.6% (TOT). |
| Dyrkorn OA [26] 2010; multicentric prospective (Norwegian national incontinence registry) | 5942; 4281 (TVT), 731 (TVT-O), 373 (TOT) |                         | NS            |
| Liapis A [27] 2010 Prospective | 82 TVT Secur (43-hammok vs. 39-U tape technique) | Hammok- 62.8% U tape- 71.8% at 1 year | Nil            |
| Chen X [28] 2011 Prospective | 150 (95-TVTO gynemesh vs. 55-TVTO) | TOT-O- 96% TVT- 95% | Bladder injury -3 (TVT); vaginal perforation 2 each; |
| Jeong MY [29] 2010 Retrospective | 64 (31 TVT-Secur vs. 33 Monoarc) | TVTSecur- 71% (21.6 month); Monoarc 84.8% (25.8 month) | No significant complications |
| Zugor V [30] 2010 Retrospective | 208 (100 TVT vs. 108 TOT) | TVT- 81%, TOT- 77.7% | Bladder perf 3% (TVT only); bleeding 2% (TVT only); Hematoma 4.6% (TOT), 8% (TVT). |
| Chae HD [31] 2010 Retrospective | 615 (376-TOT vs. 239-TVTO) | TOT- 87.8% TVT-O- 85.3% | Hematoma 0.27% (TOT), 0.84% (TVT-O); Urine retention 3.4% (TOT) |
| Total | 7061 patients |                         |                       |

in vaginal bleeding, abnormal discharge, dyspareunia or vaginal pain [Figure 2]. Symptoms of mesh erosion into the bladder/urethra include painful voiding, urinary frequency, urgency, hematuria, recurrent urinary tract infection, urinary calculi and urinary fistula.

**Treatment**
There is limited data on the optimal cost-effective management of mesh exposure. No single approach is suitable for all cases, and the choice of the technique used should be based on the location of the extrusion, its

Figure 2: Mesh extrusion

![Vaginal Extrusions](image_url)
Table 5: Review of case series using various midurethral slings for SUI published in last 3 years

| Author/Year of publication | Number Patients Type of procedure | Cure rate (%)/ follow-up | Intraoperative (surgeon related) | Complications |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|
| Groutz A [33] 2011 Prospective | 353 TVT-O | 95% at 30 month | Retention needing CIC-4.5% | Erosion- 2%; Thigh pain 9.9% |
| Lee JH [38] 2009 Prospective | 105 Canal TOT | 98% objective & 89.9% subjective cure at 1 year | No hematoma | No erosion; 4%-dyspareunia; 1%- inguinal pain |
| Kaelin Gambirasio I [37] 2009 Prospective | 233 Obtape/ Aris/ TVT-O | 72.1% at 28.3 months | 5.2%- Hemorrhage; vaginal perf 0.9%; bladder perf-nil. | Erosion- 7.6%; dyspareunia 6.2%; pain- 2.2% |
| Feng CL [32] 2008 Retrospective | 102 TVT-O | 95% at 1 year | 3.4%-lateral vaginal sulcus perforation; no bladder perforation | 0.9%- mesh erosion; 16.6%-inner thigh pain |
| Kristensen I [34] 2010/ Retrospective | 778 NS | | Retention 16.5%; hematoma 0.8%; bladder perforation 6.6%; blood transfusion 0.6%; voiding difficulty 5.6% | NS |
| Kim J [35] 2010/ Retrospective | 337 SPARC sling | 71.1% (age <70yrs); 42.9% (age >70yrs) at 45.2 months | Hematoma 0.3%; bowel injury 0.3%; blood transfusion 0.6% | Extrusion 1.8%; granulation 0.6% |
| Sun MJ [36] 2011/ Retrospective | 73 Monoarc | 98.6% at 48 months | No perforation, hematoma, voiding difficulty 6.8% | No erosion |
| Total | 1981 patients | | | Erosion/ extrusion 0-7.6%; dyspareunia 0-6.2%; pain 0-16.6% |

Table 5: Review of case series using various midurethral slings for SUI published in last 3 years

magnitude and severity and associated recurrence of SUI and/or urinary retention [Tables 14-16].

Management of mesh exposure /vaginal extrusion
In all the cases of mesh exposure, it would be pragmatic to rule out simultaneous erosion into the urethra or bladder by cystoscopy.

Conservative management
It should be initially attempted, especially in small vaginal mesh exposure. Patient is advised to abstain from intercourse. Local application of estrogen cream might allow a layer of vaginal mucosa to grow and cover the sling. Based on patient selection, this may be helpful in 0–100% cases [Table 14].

Vaginal approach
It is the most preferred approach and usually performed under general or spinal anesthesia in order to have adequate exploration of mesh [Table 14].
Partial removal of mesh
The extruded part of the mesh is removed and the remaining mesh is carefully examined for signs of infection. The vagina is closed with mobilized flap to cover the defect using absorbable sutures [Figure 3].

Complete removal of mesh
A midline full-thickness incision is performed on the anterior vagina, extending up to 2-3 cm from the urethral meatus. The bladder is dissected away from the vaginal wall, and the arcus tendineous of the levator ani are reached. The body of the mesh is trapped and the surrounding tissues are carefully dissected away. The mesh is then removed from under the bladder, and the arms from the para-vesical fossas. The vagina is closed with running locked absorbable suture. This can be done in the acute or immediate postoperative situation of hematoma and/or infection resulting in mesh exposure. This is extremely difficult later on when done for graft-related pain or contracture. Biological mesh can be used to manage the defect following complete explantation of synthetic mesh immediately or in a staged fashion.

Conservative mesh-preserving approach
This includes vulval pad graft coverage over the exposed mesh as recently described by Shaker et al.[119]

Laparoscopic approach
Extraperitoneal approach is usually adapted to reach the Retzius space. The dissection is carried out until the Cooper’s ligaments and the urethra are reached anteriorly and the arcus tendineous fascia pelvis posteriorly, followed by dissection of mesh from the pelvic walls. In case of urinary obstruction, the remaining mesh is removed through vaginal approach. It is usually employed for cases in which previous vaginal approach has failed.[148] Transvesical laparoscopic port can also aid in transurethral endoscopic removal of mesh that has eroded in the bladder [Table 15].[136-141] Recently, even single-port laparoscopic surgery has been described for the removal of mesh eroded in the bladder. [146] The details of various series reported on laparoscopic or robotic mesh removal are summarized in Table 16.[142-148]

Management of intravesical/intraurethral mesh erosion
The recommended management is removal of the mesh from the bladder or urethra.

| Table 6 : Review of literature on adjustable slings for SUI published in last 3 years |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| Author/Year of publication | Number of patients | Type of procedure | Cure rate (%)/follow-up | Postoperative adjustment needed (%) | Complications |
|------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|---------------|
|------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|---------------|
| Youn CS [39] 2010 | 103 (63- TOT vs. 40- TOA) | RCS | TOT- 90.5%, TOA- 95% At 3 months | 10 | Urethral perf-1 (TOA)/Vaginal wall injury- 3 (TOT) |
|------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|---------------|
| Errando C [40] 2011 | 130 (recurrent SUI or ISD) Remeex adjustable sling | PS | 87% at 38 months | 16.1 | Nil |
|------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|---------------|
| Lee SY [41] 2011 | 65 (severe SUI or SUI + voiding dysfunction TOA) | PMS | 84.4% at 6 month | 41.5 | mesh division for retention 1.5% |
|------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|---------------|
| Maroto JR [42] 2008 | 64 TVA/TOA adjustable sling | PS | 94% objective & 56% subjective cure at 40 months | 44 | Not specified |
|------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|---------------|
| Total | 362 patients | | | | No erosion; pain 0-5% |

RCT- randomized control trial; PS- prospective study; PMS-prospective multicentric study
**Open surgery (Vaginal or abdominal approach)**

Open cystotomy through suprapubic or retropubic approach can be used for intravesical erosion. Some patients may need partial cystectomy if significant amount of mesh had eroded in the bladder wall.[113] Urethral erosion may need open excision and urethral reconstruction via vaginal approach [Figure 4]. Anjulo et al., described three patients of sub-urethral erosion and secondary severe urethral stricture who needed total extirpation of the mesh and complete reconstruction of the urethro-vaginal septum. The technique included combined urethroplasty with bladder flap and vaginal reinforcement with pediculated vaginal flap transferred in a mini-sling fashion.[149] Interposition of the Martius graft has been advocated in such a scenario to reduce the risk of urethrovaginal fistula.[150]

**Laparoscopic approach**

Pure laparoscopy or laparoscopic-assisted endoscopic removal of mesh in the bladder has been described [Tables 15 and 16]. There are no major intraoperative complications, but it is associated with postoperative recurrent incontinence in up to 65.7%.[148]

---

**Table 7: Review of literature on mini-slings for SUI published in last 3 years**

| Author/Year of publication | N/ procedure type | Cure rate (%)/ follow-up | Complications |
|----------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|---------------|
|                            |                  |                          | Intraoperative (surgeon related) | Mesh related | Others | Comments |
|                            |                  |                          | No bleeding, hematoma, urethral injury or vaginal perforation. Retention 6.6% (TVT-O) 3.3% (TVT-S & MiniArc); | Thigh pain 6.6% (TVT-O), 3.3% (Miniarc), nil (TVT-S); | Denovo urgency 10% (TVT-S & Miniarc each), 16.6% (TVT-O); UTI 3.3% (TVT-S & Miniarc each). | Miniarc offer cure similar to TVT-O whereas TVT-S may yield inferior outcome. |
| oliveira R [43] 2011 RCT   | 90 TVT-O vs. TVT-secur vs. MiniArc. | TVT-O- 83%, TVT Secure- 67%, Miniarc 87%. at 1 year | | | |
| de Leval J [44] 2011 * RCT | 84/96 Modified TVT-O vs. TVT-O | Modified - 91.7%, TVT-O 90.7% | Retention 1.1% (each) | Groin pain higher in TVT-O Exposure (1.1% in TVT-O only) | NS | Modified procedure has shorter tape and scissor / guide dose not perforate obturator membrane. |
| de Ridder D [45] 2010 * RCT | 131 (75- MiniArc vs. 56- Monoarc) | Miniarc- 85% Monoarc- 89% at 1 year | Bladder perf-nil, bleeding 2% (Monoarc only); Voiding dysfunction 4% (MiniArc), 5% (Monoarc); | Erosion 2% (monarc only); groin pain 4% (each). | UTI 5% (MiniArc), 4% (Monarc); Denovo urge 9% (Miniarc), 20% (Monarc) | Both equally effective |
| north ce [46] 2009† PS     | 60 Minitape | 33% at 1 month & 10% at 2 years | Not specified | mesh exposure 11.7%; pain needing mesh removal 8.3% | Not specified | Mini-sling had substantially lower cure rate. ?? technique related |
| oliveira R [47] 2010/ PS   | 119 Miniarc | 80% at 12.4 month | No bladder, bowel injury; no hematoma or bleeding; retention 2.5% | Exposure- 2%; Dyspareunia 3%; groin pain 0.8% | Denovo urgency 6% | - |
| pickens RB [48] 2010/ PS   | 120 Miniarc | 94% at 1 year | Bladder perf 2.5%; retention 1.7%; no bleeding | No erosion, pain | No infection; denovo urgency 4.1% | - |
| kennelly MJ [49] 2010 ± PMS | 188 Mini-arc | 90.6% at 1 year | 0.5% -vaginal perforation | Mesh extrusion 1.6%; dyspareunia 2.1% | Denovo urgency 2.7%; urgency 2.1%, UTI 4%; urinary retention 1% | - |
| Total††                    | 676             | 80-94%                   | Erosion/ exposure-0.2%; pain 0-3.3%; dyspareunia 0-3% | | | |

RCT- randomized control study; PS- prospective study; PMS- prospective multicentric study; *-consultant to company; †-sponsored only for 2 years; ± - company sponsored study; ††-excluded reference 46
Table 8 : Review of RCT & prospective multicentre studies using synthetic mesh for transvaginal pelvic reconstructive surgery published in last 3 years

| Author/Year of publication | Study type | N | Type of Mesh Or kit | Follow-up | Cure rate (%) | Complications | Comments |
|----------------------------|------------|---|---------------------|-----------|--------------|---------------|----------|
| Diwadkar GB [50] 2009      | Review 1985-2008 (249 articles/19 abstracts) | 7827 | Not applicable | 32.6 month | Not specified | Hemorrhage, hematoma-2.8% | Reoperation for prolapse 3.9% |
|                            | vaginal repair | 5639 | Not applicable | 26.5 month | Visceral injury 1.7%, pain 2.3% | Dyspareunia-1.5% | |
|                            | sacral colpopexy | 3425 | Not specified | 17.1 month | Visceral injury 1.8% | Erosion 2.2% | |
| Maher C [51] 2010          | Cocharane metaanalysis on surgical mgt of POP. 40 RCT included | 3773 | Not applicable | NS | ACS better then vaginal; Anterior prolapse-standard repair more recurrence; | Less dyspareunia with ASC; Data on morbidity of mesh in anterior vaginal repair lacking | |
| Jia X [52] 2010            | Systematic review of sacrocolpopexy; 54 studies | 7054 | Uterine/vault prolapse | 23 month | 94 – 100% | Mesh erosion 0-21% | |
| Nieminen K [51] 2010      | RCT No mesh vs. mesh | 215 | Parietene light | 3 year | 59%-no mesh; 87%-mesh | 19% mesh exposure; denovo SUI 5% (no mesh) 7% (mesh) | Number needed to treat = 4 |
| Ignjatovic I [51] 2010    | RCT No mesh vs. mesh | 76 | No mesh-39 Prolift-37 | 1 year | 48%-colporrhaphy 89% prolite | No blood transfusion | Exfusion 10.8% |
| Nguyen JN [51] 2008 ***   | RCT No mesh vs. mesh | 75 | No mesh-38 Perigee-37 | 1 year | 58%-colporrhaphy 87%- Perigee | Blood transfusion 3% both group | Extrusion 5%; leg pain 3% (mesh) |
| Withagen MI [51] 2011     | RCT no mesh vs. mesh | 169 | 93- mesh 76- no mesh | 1 year | 54.8%- no mesh; 91.4%-mesh | Bladder injury (2%- mesh); Hematoma 6% (mesh),1% no mesh; retention 16% (mesh), 5% no mesh | Mesh exposure 16.9%; Dyspareunia 10% (no mesh), 8% (mesh); Denovo pain 4% (no mesh), 7.5% (mesh) |
| Long CY [51] 2010         | RCT-multicentric study Perigee &/or apogee vs. Prolift anterior / posterior | 108 | Perigee & or apogee-60 Prolift | 12-20 month | 96.3% | No Intra-Op. Complication Hematoma-0.9% | Denovo SUI 9% (no mesh), 10% (mesh). |

Total incidence of mesh related complications Erosion/exposure-0-21%; dyspareunia 1.5 – 20.3%; pain 3-7.5%

RCT- randomized control trial; NS- not specified; *- company sponsored; ASC- Abdominal sacral colpopexy

Endoscopic approach

Mechanical removal with scissors- Cystoscopic excision of mesh eroded in bladder or urethra is described using endoscopic scissors [Table 15]. Transurethral nephroscopy with use of laparoscopic scissors has also been described. [138] It also may be of advantage to have a suprapubic transvesical...
Table 9: Review of prospective studies using synthetic mesh for transvaginal pelvic reconstructive surgery published in last 3 years

| Author/Publication year / Study type | Number Patients/Procedure or mesh type | Cure rate(%) / follow-up. | Complications |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
|                                      |                                       |                           | Intraoperative (surgeon related) | Mesh related | Others |
| Elmer C [54] 2009/ multicentric     | 261; POP; Prolift                     | 79%- ant 82%- post / 1 year | Bladder/rectal perforation 3.4%Bleeding needing BT -1; Hematoma- 5 | Erosion 11%; Groin/buttock pain-1.9% | Not specified |
| Ek M [55] 2010/ multicentric *      | 121; anterior prolapsed; Prolift      | UDI score declined 91 to 31 / 1 year | Not specified | Not specified | Denovo SUI- 11%; SUI aggravated 56% |
| Moore RD [56] 2010/ multicentric†   | 114; anterior prolapsed; Perigee      | 88.5 / 2 year              | Bladder injury-1.7%; Retention 3.5%; Hematoma 0.9%; | Erosion-10.5%; groin/pelvic/vaginal pain 4.4%; denovo dyspareunia 5.26% | Denovo urgency 3.5% |
| Kaufman Y [57] 2011                 | 114; Prolift                          | 94.7 / 7.5 month           | Exposure- 12.3%; Granulation 8.8%; Dyspareunia 20.2% |  | U1 & fever- 11%; denovo SUI 6.1%; denovo urgency 17.5% |
| Fayyad AM [58] 2010                 | 36; Prolift                           | 53 / 24.6 month            | Mesh exposure 19% |  | Denovo SUI 13.8%; denovo urgency 2.7% |
| Lawndy SSS [59] 2010                | 386 POP; Prolift or titanium coated mesh | 90 / 1 year               | No hematoma or infection | Erosion- 5.7%; Shrinkage- 0.25% | NS |
| Cosma S [60] 2011                   | 118 (Posterior intravaginal slingplasty) | 96.6 / 58.6 month         | Hematoma 3.4%;fistula 2.5% | Erosion- 8.5%; (all with multifilament mesh) | Denovo urgency 8.5%; denovo SUI 5.9%. |
| Lo TS [61] 2010                     | 128; anterior Trans-obturator mesh & sacrospinous fixation | 91.8 / 30 month           | No intraoperative complication; CIC 7.8% | Mesh extrusion 4.1%; gluteal / perineal pain 7.8%; Mesh folding 3.9%. | Fever 2.3% |
| Jacquetin B [62] 2010†              | 90; total vaginal prolapsed; TVM      | 80 / 3 year                | NS | Vaginal extrusion 14.4%; Dyspareunia 8.8%; pelvic pain 7.1%; vesicovaginal fistula 1.1% | - |

Total incidence of mesh related complications: Erosion/exposure- 4.1 – 19%; dyspareunia 5.2 – 20.2%; pain 1.9 – 7.8%

†- company sponsored; *- author advisor to ethicon

Figure 4: Urethral mesh erosion

Transurethral resection (TUR) of mesh – It completely resects intravesical mesh as well as the infiltrated muscle around the mesh with a resectoscope loop similar to transurethral surgery of bladder tumors. Although the polypropylene mesh itself is not an insulator, muscle infiltrated mesh can be resected with high-voltage electric current. Oh et al., employed this technique in 14 patients and noted that mesh could be completely removed in 13 patients with only one patient developing laparoscopic port to give traction on mesh thereby assisting in excision with endoscopic scissors. Use of transurethral nasal speculum or Metzenbaum scissors by the side of an endoscope may also be useful in some scenarios.
Table 10: Review of retrospective single centre studies using synthetic mesh for transvaginal pelvic reconstructive surgery published in last 3 years.

| Author/Year of publication | Number Patients/ Prolapse type | Follow-up; Cure rate(%) | Complications |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
|                            |                                 |                         | Intraoperative (surgeon related) | Mesh related | Others |
| McDermott CD [63] 2011    | 89; 64 total prolift colpopexy 24 (total prolift hysteropexy) | 10.6 month; NS | Erosion 8% (colpopexy), 13% hysteropexy; Dyspareunia 26% (colpopexy), 19% (hysteropexy) | NS | NS |
| Lau HY [64] 2011           | 115; perigee + TVT-O [68]; Colporraphy + TVT-O [47]SUI + cystocele | 1 year; POP-98.5(perigee), 86.9 (colporraphy); SUI- 91 both | Hematoma- 0.8 % | Erosion – 4.5% (perigee), 2.2% (colporraphy); pain 2.9% (perigee), 2.2% (colporraphy); Dyspareunia 4.5% (perigee), 4.3% (colporraphy). | UTI 2.9% (perigee), 4.3% (colporraphy) |
| Vaiyapuri GR [65] 2011     | 254; POP/ Prolift               | 1 year; 96.2 | Bladder injury 2.8%, anal perforation 0.4%; hematoma 2.4%. | Mesh erosion 11.5%; thigh pain 16.5%; pelvic pain 1%; buttock pain 10.2%; Dyspareunia 1.4%. | Fever 24%, UTI 1.6%; denovo SUI 9.1%; denovo urgency 5.3% |
| Huang WC [66] 2010         | 65; Prolift                      | 24.5 month; 97 | Bladder perforation 1.5%; bowel perforation 1.5%; retention 6%; BT 12% | Erosion 2% | Pelvic infection 1.5%; denovo urgency 5% |
| Shveiky D [67] 2011        | 4; full thickness rectal prolapsed with POP/ Vaginal mesh colpopexy with prolift elevate | 6-44 month; 100 | NS | NS | NS |
| Eboue C [68] 2010          | 123; anterior prolapse / Surgipro- 57 patients had associated symptomatic or occult SUI | 1 year; 97.6 87.7 - SUI | Bladder injury 0.8%; Urethral injury 1.6%; hematoma 3.25%; | Erosion 6.5%; Dyspareunia 11.1% | Denovo SUI- 24%; Denovo urgency 17.5% |
| Park HK [69] 2010          | 10; anterior prolapse + SUI / Prolift + TVT | 7.1 month; 50% prolapse 100% SUI | 2- retention | nil | 1- denovo urgency |
| Gagnon LO [70] 2010        | 56; POP/ prolift               | 21 months; 91 % | Rectal injury 2%; prolonged bleeding 2%; urinary retention 18%; | No mesh erosion; pain 4% | 3- denovo urge incontinence |
| Argirovic RB [71] 2010     | 67; POP / Gynecare             | 3 month; 92.5% | 1 bladder injury | Vaginal erosion-11.9%; mesh shrinkage 8.7%; granuloma 5.9% | 4.5% denovo urinary incontinence |
| Ganji FA [72] 2009         | 127; POP / Gynecare           | 18.7 month;Not specified | Bladder injury 2.4%; rectal injury 1.6%; | 10.2% mesh erosion; buttock pain 24.4%; | New onset SUI 12.6%; Other compartment prolapse 3.15%; Denovo SUI 5.4%; relapse of prolapse 6.9% |
| Caquant F [73] 2008 *      | 648; POP / Gynecare           | 6 month; | Bladder injury 0.7%; rectal injury 0.15 %; bleeding-1% ; hematoma 1.9%; fistula 0.15% | Exposure 11.3%; retraction 11.7%; | Erosion-nil; mesh retraction 10%; pain 17.7% |
| Gabriel B [74] 2010†       | 62; (age > 80 yrs)/ Prolift    | 6.2 month; 91.7 | Increase residual urine 25.8%; | Erosion-nil; mesh retraction 10%; pain 17.7% | UTI 3.2% |
| Ghezzi F [75] 2011         | 138 (age> 75 yrs)             | 1 year; 87.6 | Bladder perforation 0.7%; hematoma 0.7%; bleeding 0.7%. | NS | Fever 2.1%; denovo SUI 2.9% |

Incidence of mesh related complications

Erosion/exposure-0-11.9%; dyspareunia 1.4-26%; pain 2.9-24.4%
Table 11: Review of studies using composite mesh & other kit modification for vaginal pelvic reconstructive surgery published in last 3 years

| Author/Year of publication/Study type | Study type | Number Patients/Procedure or mesh type | Cure rate (%) / follow-up. | Complications |
|--------------------------------------|------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| Milani AL [80] 2011*                | PMS        | 127; Prolift +M                         | 77.4 / 1 year             | Bladder perf 2.3%; Mesh exposure 10.2%; Denovo SUI 19.5% |
| Cervigni M [81] 2011                | PS         | 97 POP; Collagen coated PPM             | 64.9 / 1 year             | NS            |
| Araco F [82] 2009                   | RS         | 36; anterior prolapse                   | 35 month; 91.7           | No intraoperative complication |
| Karp DR [83] 2011                   | RS         | 65; (35- no midline                       | 6.2 month; 66- no plication; 73- plication | No intraoperative complication |
| Culligan PJ [84] 2010               | RS         | 120; POP with Avaulto solo              | 1 year; 81               | No intraoperative complication |
| Overall                              |            | 445 patients                           | Mean 75.6%, 15.5 month   |               |

Attempts to decrease total amount of synthetic mesh by using composite mesh instead of Type 1 polypropylene mesh.

| Author/Year of publication/Study type | Study type | Number Patients/Procedure or mesh type | Cure rate (%) / follow-up. | Complications |
|--------------------------------------|------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| Alcalay M [85] 2011 *                | PS         | 20; Endo Fast Reliant System# (trocars less system) | 85 / 1 year             | Mesh exposure 5%; Denovo SUI 10% |
| Zyczynski HM [86] 2010*              | PMS        | 136; Gynecare prosima pelvic floor system# (nonanchored mesh) | 76.9 / 1 year             | Mesh exposure 8% |

PMS-prospective multicentric study; PS- prospective study; RS- retrospective study; *- company sponsored

Some patients may need multiple TUR for complete mesh excision [Table 15]. The possible complications of this approach include extraperitoneal bladder rupture and vesicovaginal fistula formation. This technique is not recommended for urethral erosion, due to higher possibility of incomplete removal and urethral perforation. To avoid complications associated with monopolar cautery, Bekker et al., recently described bipolar TUR for excision of intravesical mesh.

Transurethral endoscopic excision using Holmium laser (TEEH)- It has been described as an alternative to electric current at a setting ranging from 2.5 to 10 W. Of the nine patients described since 2005, six developed recurrence over a short follow-up of slightly above one year.

It is not uncommon to have strands remaining when endoscopic small shears or laser is used to remove the mesh, these can continue to pose a problem, thus we find the open or intravesical laparoscopic approach the most efficient for the bladder and endoscopic best for urethral erosion.

Erosion in bowel
Although rare, enterovaginal fistula or colovaginal fistula with or without local abscess have been reported in the literature. The possible mechanisms are intraoperative injury, mechanical injury by mesh alone or in conjunction with local sepsis.

MESH INFECTION
This may be associated with or without vaginal mesh exposure. Various pathogens have been implicated, including Gram-positive and Gram-negative aerobic and anaerobic bacteria. They are usually linked to the type of mesh material and are now a rarity since the generalized use of knitted polypropylene monofilament implants.
Shah and Badlani: Mesh complication in female pelvic surgery

Table 12: Review of literature on concomitant sling with POP repair published in last 3 years

| Author/Year of publication | Number Patients/ study type/ Prolapse type | Follow-up; Cure rate (%) | Complications Intraoperative (surgeon related) | Mesh related | Others |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|--------------|--------|
| Maher C [93] 2010          | 377; Cocharane metaanalysis on surgical mgt of POP; 40 RCT included | Not applicable | Not specified | NS | Concomitant SUI surgery during POP surgery does not reduce rate of post-operative SUI. |
| Costantini E [94] 2011     | 66; RCT- concomitant Bursh with POP repair in continent patient; Bursh (34); No Bursh (32) | 83.4%; POP; 97 months | NS | NS | SUI- 29% (Bursh), 16% (no Bursh). No advantage of concomitant Bursh in continent patients |
| Moon YJ [95] 2010          | RS- 109; abdominal sacrocolpopexy with Bursh (49) vs. TOT (60) | 81.6 | Retention 53.1% (Bursh), 11.7% (TOT); | NS | Denovo urgency 18.4% (Bursh), 3.3% (TOT) |
| Lau HY [64] 2011 RS        | 115; perigee + TVT-O (68); colporaphy + TVT-O (47) urodynamic SUI with cystocele | POP- 98.5% (perigee), 86.9% (colporaphy); SUI- 91% both group | Hematoma- 0.8 % | Erosion - 4.5% (perigee), 2.2% (colporaphy); pain 2.9% (perigee), 2.2% (colporaphy); Dyspareunia 4.5% (perigee), 4.3% (colporaphy). |
| Eboue C [68] 2010 RS       | 123; anterior prolapse / Surgipro- 57 patients associated SUI | 1 year; 97.6 87.7% - SUI | Bladder injury 0.8%; Urethral Injury 1.6%; hematoma 3.25%; | Erosion 6.5%; Dyspareunia 11.1% | Denovo SUI- 24%; Denovo urgency 17.5% |
| Park HK [96] 2010 RS       | 10; anterior prolapse + SUI/ Prolift + TVT | 7.1 month; 50%- prolapse 100%- SUI | 2- retention nil | 1- denovo urgency |
| Groutz A [97] 2010 cohort  | 117 [POP with UDS confirmed occult SUI]; TVT-O | 86 / 1 year | No bladder injury, blood loss, hematoma; Retention- 5.1% | Erosion-0%; Thigh pain- 6.4% | UTI- 6.4% Denovo urgency 6.9% |

Incidence

Incidence ranges from 0–8%.[18]

Risk factors

Factors related to the development of mesh infection include types of mesh material, procedure, preventive measures taken, age and underlying comorbidity of the subject. Type II, III and IV meshes due to their inherent property are predisposed to develop mesh infection. Clave et al., in analyzing 100 explants, noted that multifilament polypropylene, non-knitted, non-woven polypropylene and composite implants were more frequently associated with infection than monofilament polypropylene implants (70% vs. 39%).[154] Limited dissection with gentle tissue handling, meticulous attention to hemostasis, would help to minimize hematoma formation and bacterial colonization. Peri-operative antibiotic, thorough antisepsis of the perineum, vulva and vagina and covering the anus at surgery are important infection prevention strategies. There is no conclusive evidence that embedding the mesh in antiseptic solution may play a crucial role.[155] It is also important to avoid performing a diagnostic paracentesis of mesh-related seromas, when there are no symptoms and/ or signs of inflammation. Such a procedure could transform an aseptic reaction into an infectious process.

Effect of infection of mesh material

Contrary to the prevailing understanding of polypropylene as an inert material when used in vaginal surgeries, Clave et al., in their study of 100 explants noted that all polypropylene implants showed evidence of degradation on scanning electron microscopy after three months.[154] Mesh damage included superficial degradation, which appeared as peeling of the fiber surface, transverse cracks in the implant threads, significant cracks with disintegrated surfaces and partially detached material, and superficial and deep flaking. Fractures were variable in number and depth. Authors described several hypotheses concerning the degradation of the polypropylene including direct oxidation, fatty acid diffusion and oxidation due to free radical attack. It was noted that polypropylene implants degraded more in the presence of an acute infection or chronic inflammation. However, none of the poly(ethylene terephthalate) was
Table 13: Review of studies on laparoscopic &/or robotic approach for pelvic reconstructive surgery published in last 3 years

| Author/Publication year | Type of study | Number Patients/Procedure or mesh type | Cure rate (%)/follow-up. | Complications |
|-------------------------|--------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|
|                         |              |                                        |                          |               |
|                         |              |                                        |                          |               |
| Geller EJ [100] 2011    | PS           | 28 / robotic sacrocolpopexy            | 100 / 14.8 month         | Nil           |
|                         |              |                                        |                          | Exposure 7.14%|
| Morano SJ [101] 2011    | PS           | 31 / robotic sacrocolpopexy            | 100 / 24.5 month         | Nil           |
|                         |              |                                        |                          | Myocardial infarct, reoperation for tension, wound infection & ileus 3.2% each |
| Maher CF [102] 2011     | RCT          | 108 / laparoscopic sacrocolpopexy vs. total vaginal mesh (Lap- 53, Vaginal- 55) | 77- lap, 43-vaginal / 2 year | 1 cystotomy & bowel injury each (lap); 1 BT in each group |
|                         |              |                                        |                          | Erosion- 2% (lap), 13% (vaginal); contracture 7% (vaginal); |
|                         |              |                                        |                          | Trocar hernia 1 (lap); UTI-2(lap), 3(vaginal): Lap better. |
| Sergent F [103] 2011    | PS           | 119 / Lap sacrocolpopexy with Parietex | 94.8 / 34 month          | Conversion- 4%; Blood transfusion 0.8%; bladder injury 2.4%; rectal injury 1.6%; retention 8.8%; Rectovesical fistula 0.8% |
|                         |              |                                        |                          | Erosion 3.4%; pelvic pain 0.8%, vaginal pain 0.8% |
| Xylinas EX [104] 2010   | PS           | 12; robotic assisted sacrocolpopexy    | 100 / 19.1 month         | Nil           |
|                         |              |                                        |                          | Nil           |
|                         |              |                                        |                          | Nil           |
| Wong MTC [105] 2011     | RCT          | Lap (40) vs. robotic rectopexy (23) for rectocele | NS                      | Conversion- 7.9% |
|                         |              |                                        |                          | Nil           |
|                         |              |                                        |                          | UTI 4.7%; Ileus 3.2%; outcome similar in both group |
| Onol FF [104] 2011      | RS           | 36; extraperitoneal sacrocolpopexy with titanium coated mesh. | 91 / 29 month            | Bladder injury 17%; ureteric injury 3% |
|                         |              |                                        |                          | Erosion/exposure-nil |
|                         |              |                                        |                          | Hernia 3%; DVT 3%. |
| Wang Y [107] 2011       | RS           | 93; POP/ Lap sacrospinous ligament fixation | 93.5 / 18 month         | Bladder injury 4.3%, blood transfusion nil. |
|                         |              |                                        |                          | Erosion-nil; pain 1.1%; Dyspareunia-0 |
|                         |              |                                        |                          | Denovo urgency 6.5% |
| Overall                 |              | 376 patients                           | 77 to 100% at 18 to 34 month follow-up | Bladder injury 0-17%; conversion 0-7.9%. |
|                         |              |                                        |                          | Erosion 0-7.14%, pain/dyspareunia 0-1.1% |

RCT- randomized control trial; PS- prospective study; RS- retrospective study; Lap- laparoscopic

found to be altered or degraded. Hence authors expressed a need for clinical trials to comparatively investigate the performance of new type of monofilament meshes, such as poly(ethylene terephthalate).

**Clinical presentation**

Non-specific pelvic pain, persistent vaginal discharge or bleeding, dyspareunia, and urinary or fecal incontinence are the most common manifestations of vaginal mesh-related infection. Clinical examination may reveal induration of the vaginal incision, vaginal granulation tissue, draining sinus tracts and prosthesis erosion or rejection. A mesh-related infection may sometimes present as a pelvic abscess, urogenital or other fistulas, discharging sinus or osteomyelitis. Mesh-related infection in the form of thigh abscess has also been reported to manifest even five years after initial surgery.[156]

**Treatment**

Mesh infection requires removal of the whole mesh either transvaginally or abdominally. This is accompanied with drainage of abscess cavities and administration of intravenous or oral antibiotics. Additionally, microbiological studies of removed meshes are recommended to guide appropriate antimicrobial management postoperatively.[18] Use of copious local irrigation with antimicrobials is recommended in such a scenario.

**MESH RETRACTION**

Retraction of tissues surrounding the mesh is usual with a reduction in the size of the mesh. The average shrinkage is 25–30% in experimental surgery on the rat’s abdominal wall; it may reach 40% of the initial surface of the implant in the patients after surgery. Therefore, many surgeons use large implants to cover defects, and anticipate scarring, shrinkage and puckering. Lo et al., found 19.6% reduction in the length of mesh on ultrasonography at one month postoperatively.[157] However, contrary to these findings, Dietz et al., found no evidence of mesh contraction in their patients.[158] The authors performed four-dimensional
Table 14: Literature regarding various conservative and open surgical modalities for management of mesh related complications from Jan 2005 to March 2011 (except endoscopic and laparoscopic approach) (Total number of patients = 250)

| Author/Year | N | Previous surgery | Indication of mesh removal * | Duration to removal | Previous Failed attempt | Approach for mesh removal† | Followup | Complications |
|-------------|---|------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|----------|---------------|
| Kobashi KC (2003) | 4 | Midurethral sling | All erosions | 6 weeks | Nil | Abstinence from sexual activity | 6 weeks | Nil; 100% success |
| Difflexus X (2005) | 27 | TOT | All erosions | variable | Nil | 52%- conservative treatment since asymptomatic; NS 48% partial excision | 2 patients (7% overall) needed complete excision. |
| Collinet P (2005) | 34 | POP | All erosions | Most within 2 months | Nil | Conservative mgt 26.4% (healed); partial excision 73.6% | 8%- second surgery needed; 4% postop VVF needing surgery. |
| Lo TS (2007) | 1 | TVT | Mesh protrusion with SUI | 7 months | Nil | Partial resection of protruded mesh + placement of second intermediate piece of mesh at mid-urethra | 6 month nil |
| South MMT (2007) | 31 | Abdominal sacrocolpopexy | | | | Endoscopic assisted vaginal- 54.9%; vaginal 45.1%; abdominal 22.6% | 14 month | 9.7% patient needed 3 attempts for symptom resolution. Bowel injury- 6.4%; fever- 3.2%; wound infection- 3.2%. |
| Deng DY (2007) | 26 | Midurethral sling | Voiding dysfunction with most patients having mesh in bladder &/or urethra. | Immediate to 6 weeks | Nil | Mesh excision, urethrolysis and urethral reconstruction 38.5%; abdominal mesh + surrounding bladder excision 27%; partial cystectomy 3.8%; excision with marlitis flap 15.4% | NS NS |
| Margulies RV (2008) | 13 | POP- apogee or perigee | Exposure 76.7%; abscess + exposure 7.7%, pain 15.4% | 38.5% | | | 6.5 month | Recurrent SUI-23%; Recurrent POP- 15%; repeat exposure- 23%; dyspareunia- 60% |
| Ordirica R (2008) | 38 | SUI | BOO 53%; erosion 34%; SUI 8%; severe urgency 5% | | | Incision 52.7%; excision 34.2%; other 7.9% (pubovaginal sling); conservative 5.3% (urgency) | | Urethral injury -2.7%; osteitis pubis- 2.7%; Recurrent SUI- 5.2%; urgency – 5.2% |
| Velemir L (2008) | 8 | Mid urethral & retropubic sling | All urethral erosion | 13.1 month | 37.5% | 2- vaginal excision & urethral repair; 4- endoscopic excision; both- 1; no treatment-1 | 9 month | 4- SUI needing treatment |
| Blandon RE (2009) | 21 | Midurethral sling | Erosion 57.1%; dyspareunia 47.6%; recurrent prolapse 42.8% | | 52% | Conservative – 24%; mesh excision 33.3% (vaginal 28.6%; abdominal 4.8%) | | |
| Kuh A (2009) | 21 | Midurethral sling | All erosions | 4 month | | Local oestrogen- 14.3% (healed); trimming and closure of vaginal wall over mesh (85.7%) | 6 month | 5.6% patient failed conservative approach and needed partial mesh removal |
| Araco F (2009) | 1 | TOT | Exposed mesh with Obturator & thigh abscess | 3 year | Nil | Vaginal drainage of abscess and tape remoal. | 1 year | Serous vaginal discharge needing intravenous antibiotic. |
| Shaker D (2010) | 3 | POP | All erosions | 3 year | Nil | Vulval pad graft over exposed mesh | 5 month | Nil |
| Firoozi F (2010) | 1 | POP-prolifter | Mesh extrusion with VVF + retained sponge in bladder | 1 month | Nil | Transvaginal removal of mesh, retained sponge and repair of VVF | 4 month nil |
| Khong SY (2010) | 9 | POP | All mesh protrusion | 3 month | | Partial resection + Surgisis cover of vaginal defect | 4.4 month | 33.3%- minor erosion; 11.1% second surgery needed. |
| Costantini E (2011) | 12 | Abdominal POP repair | All erosions ( 1- bladder) | 22.9 month | nil | 10- vaginal repair; 2- abdominal repair and mesh removal. | 57 month | 1- patient developed VVF after endoscopic attempt and needed abdominal approach |

Total / range: 250
 Mostly erosion Immediate to 3 year 0-52% variable 0-57 month variable

*few patients had more than 1 indication; †few patient needed multiple procedures
Table 15: Review of reports on endoscopic management of mesh erosion into bladder or urethra from Jan 2005 to March 2011 in English literature

| Author/ year | N | Original surgery & time interval there after | Endoscopic technique | Follow-up | Complications |
|--------------|---|--------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------|---------------|
| Irer B [123] 2005 | 1 | TVT (3 year); Endoscopic resection with scissors | NS | Nil |
| Quiroz LH [124] 2009 | 1 | TVT (6 year) | Transurethral excision under tactile traction (cystoscopic scissor failed) | 1.5 month | Nil |
| Wijffels SAM [125] 2009 | 3 | TVT-2, TOT-1 (7 month) | Excision with endoscopic scissor | 2.5 month | 1- Repeat excision. |
| Arrabal-polo MA [126] 2010 | 1 | TVT (8 years) | Resection with endoscopic scissors & Holmium laser coagulation of resulting lesion. | 1 month | Nil |
| Mendonca TM [127] 2011 | 2 | Obtape (2.5 year) | Cut tape under direct eye vision with Metzenbaum scissors or push the tape with forceps | 3 month | Nil |
| Mustafa M [128] 2007 | 1 | TVT (1 year) | TUR of mesh | 2 month | Nil |
| Huwyler M [129] 2008 | 5 | TVT (17 month) | TUR of mesh | 10 month | Nil |
| Oh TH [130] 2009 | 14 | TVT-11; TOT-3 (symptomatic for 18 month) | TUR of mesh | 18 month | 1-stone recurrence; 1-hematoma; 1-denovo mixed incontinence; 1-VVF. |
| Foley C [131] 2010 | 9 | TVT-8; TOT-1 (2-18 month) | TUR of mesh | NS | 1-redo TUR; 2- open surgery; recurrent SUI- 100%. |
| Gir SK [132] 2005 | 3 | TVT, Bursh, Stamey- each. (4 year) | Holmium laser excision at 10 W | 7 month | 1- Recurrent SUI |
| Doumouchtsis SK [133] 2011 | 6 | TVT-4; SPARC +TOT-1; colposuspension-1 (5.7 yrs) | Holmium laser excision at 2.5 W | 1.5 years | 2- Hematuria; 5- recurrent erosion; 3- repeat procedure; 1- SUI; 1-voiding difficulty. |
| Frenkl TL [134] 2008 | 11 | Variety of procedure | Combination of TUR & scissor excision | NS | 4 –failure needing other surgery. |
| Feiner B [135] 2009 | 1 | TVT (9month) | Holmium laser excision 4, scissor 4. TUR 2. | 1 year | Nil |
| Al-Badr A [136] 2005 | 1 | TVT (4 month) | Excision with suprapubic laparoscopic scissors under cystoscopic guidance & tension | 1.5 month | Nil |
| Cornel EB [137] 2005 | 1 | TVT (2 month) | Lap excision with scissor ( 2 ports) under cystoscopic vision | 4.5 month | Needed TVT-O for SUI |
| Baracat F [138] 2005 | 11 | TVT (not specified) | Endoscopic excision with transurethrally placed nephroscope and laparoscopic scissors; lap assistance in vesical mesh (6) | 6 month | 2-repeat excision; |
| Rosenblatt P [139] 2005 | 2 | TVT (7.5 month) | Excision with suprapubic laparoscopic scissors under cystoscopic guidance & tension | 1.5 month | Nil |
| Parekh MH [140] 2006 | 1 | TVT-O (6 month) | Mesh cut with a Metzenbaum scissors introduced through the urethra along the cystoscope with traction via the laparoscopic grasper | 6 month | Recurrence needing vaginal removal. |
| Bekker MD [141] 2010 | 1 | POP Prolift (3 week) | Bipolar TUR with accessory lap suprapubic port | 1.5 month | Nil |
| Overall | 75 | SUI (74)/ TOT (1) | Various Endoscopic methods | Mean= 1.6 month | 17- recurrent tape erosion (22.7%) |

Clinical presentation
Normal urinary, sexual and defecatory functions require a vagina that is compliant and whose walls can easily and painlessly change conformation. With excessive stiffness of ultrasound at 3-53 months in 40 women, at least twice in each to measure mesh dimensions at two time points after implantation. However, objective recurrence of cystocele was seen in 16 patients in this study.
the vaginal walls, secondary to the mesh that has undergone shrinkage, it is possible that dyspareunia, defecatory, and urinary dysfunction could result. [98] Mesh shrinkage can expose a patient to recurrence of previous prolapse or SUI since the defect is no longer better covered. Patients may have pain of varying frequency and various natures including “tenderness” at palpation of the mesh, painful intercourse or pain when doing physical exercise. It is important to assess the impact of this pain on the quality of life using validated questionnaire scales. The exact responsibility of the retraction may be difficult to assert, but it seems likely if palpation of the retracted implant arises a pain similar to the patient’s description. Retraction may also be appreciated on palpation. In a series of 17 women described by Feiner B and Maher C recently, clinical presentation included severe vaginal pain aggravated by movements and focal tenderness over contracted portions of mesh on vaginal examination in all patients. [159] Additionally, dyspareunia was seen in all sexually active patients. Associated clinical findings were mesh erosion (9 of 17), vaginal tightness (7 of 17) and shortening (5 of 17).

**Treatment**

Initially, medical management must be tried including painkillers, local hormonal therapy and local anti-inflammatory drug injections. If symptoms persist surgery might be required. The goal of surgical management is to relieve the tension by dividing the central graft from the arms and excising all areas of mesh contraction after mobilizing it from underlying tissues. [159] In a case series of 17 patients who presented with mesh contraction after repair of pelvic prolapse using synthetic mesh, Feiner *et al.*, reported that postoperatively 88% women experienced substantial reduction in vaginal pain and 64% experienced substantial reduction in dyspareunia. In the author’s experience, repeat excision of entire accessible mesh was unsuccessful in 77% and persistent voiding symptoms in 80%. No intraoperative complication; recurrent SUI - 52.6%; dyspareunia - 29%; shortened vagina - 5.3%.

**DYSPAREUNIA**

Dyspareunia may be caused by mesh erosion, mesh infection, mesh shrinkage or extensive fibrosis. A recent meta-analysis reported an overall incidence of 9.1% in 70 studies analyzed. [91] On reviewing the literature on the management of SUI over a period of the last three years,

---

**Table 16**: Literature on laparoscopic mesh removal reported from Jan 2005 to March 2011. (N = 102)

| Author/Year | N | Initial surgery | Indication of mesh removal | Duration to removal | Previous failed attempt | Approach for mesh removal | Follow-up | Complications |
|-------------|---|-----------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| Pikaart DP [142] 2005 | 5 | TVT | 60% erosion; 40% pain | 1.3 year | 20% | Laparoscopy - all | NS | None; persistent voiding symptoms in 80% |
| Baessler K [143] 2005 | 17 mesh POP | Infection 37.5%; abscess 4.1%; VVF 4.1%; pain 4.1%; BOO 8.3%; dyspareunia 41.6% | 24 month | | Vaginal 16.7%; vaginal + lap 70.9%; abdominal 12.5% | 6 weeks to 6 month | No intraoperative complication; recurrent SUI - 52.6%; dyspareunia - 29%; shortened vagina - 5.3% |
| Stepanian AA [144] 2008 | 5 (total 10) | Lap sacrocolpopexy | Exposure - 55.6%; abscess 11.1%; pelvic pain 44.5% | 1 year | Nil | Vaginal - 57.3%; lap - 40%; both - 1.3% | 38.4 month | Recurrent SUI - 52% at mean 0.8 months; rest - none |
| Misrai V [145] 2009 | 31 (total 75) | TVT-77.3%; TOT- 22.7% | BOO-45%; extrusion 24%; erosion 16%; chronic pain 21%; deno SUI or urgency 12% | 33 + 22 months | 21.3% | Vaginal - 57.3%; lap - 40%; both - 1.3% | 38.4 month | Recurrent SUI - 52% at mean 0.8 months; rest - none |
| Ingber MS [146] 2009 | 2 | MUS | Bladder erosion both | 5.2 years | Nil | Single port lap. surgery - both | 3 month | 1 pt - foreign body in bladder |
| Braun NM [147] 2009 | 5 (total 83) | SUI or POP | Erosion -53%; infection -36.1%; granulation 12%; pain 10.84%; malposition 4.8%; BOO 20.5% | 58 pts > 2 years | NS | Vaginal - complete removal 73.5%; partial removal 16.9%; section 18.1%; lap - 6%; other - 10.9% | NS | Recurrent SUI - 38%; recurrent cystocele - 19%; bladder injury - 1.2%; bleeding - 2.4%; VVF - 1.2%; hematoma - 6%; fever - 3.6% |
| Roupret M [148] 2010 | 38 | TVT | Erosion 23.7%; extrusion 18.5%; BOO 18.5%; chronic pain 39.5% | 2.1 year | 100% | All - laparoscopic | NS | Recurrent incontinence 65.7% |
| Total /range | 103 (overall 185) | Mostly erosion or exposure | 1 to 5.2 year | 0 to 100% | Total lap = 102 patients | Variable | Variable | |
Table 17: The incidence of complications reported under various search criteria till March 2011 in MAUDE database

| Search criteria               | Number of records |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| Overall                       |                   |
| Vaginal mesh                  | >2310 *           |
| Mesh erosion                  | 1160              |
| Vaginal sling complication    | 550               |
| Vaginal mesh complication     | 340               |
| Vaginal tape complication     | 253               |
| Product specific (for SUI)    |                   |
| Tension free vaginal tape     | 1353              |
| Transobturator tape           | 226               |
| TVT-O                         | 56                |
| Product specific (for POP)    |                   |
| Prolift pelvic floor repair   | 457               |
| Apogee / perigee              | 157               |
| Gynecare Gynemesh             | 147               |

*There were more than 500 complications reported in 2010 with search criteria “vaginal mesh”; specific number above 500 is not displayed on the MAUDE website.

we noted that the incidence of dyspareunia was noted in up to 6.2% patients [Table 5]. However, the incidence was reported significantly higher after POP surgery, approaching up to 24.4% [Table 10].

Interestingly, there was no difference in the rates of dyspareunia while using absorbable and non-absorbable mesh at one year. [160] Similarly, in a recently published study the use of mesh was not associated with an increase in dyspareunia as compared with anterior colporrhopathy alone. [1,4] A concurrent procedure combined with mid-urethral sling can increase the possibility of postoperative dyspareunia. Cholhan et al., noted that postoperative de novo dyspareunia after TOT was associated with a phenomenon they call “Para-urethral banding”, which are palpable bands in the urethral folds. [165] These bands were only observed in patients undergoing TOT procedure and contributed to a substantial rate of dyspareunia (24%). Similarly, new-onset dyspareunia after transobturator tape TVT-O procedure was attributable to posterior migration of the tape, which could be palpated close to the anterior vaginal fornix. [162] In the authors’ experience cutting the tape in the midline successfully treated all four patients. However, it may become an indication for mesh removal. [143]

In an interesting study by Mohr et al., male dyspareunia (hispareunia) was evaluated in male partners of 32 patients who underwent surgery for mesh extrusion. [163] They noted that visual analogue scale VAS score as a measurement of hispareunia significantly improved from median score of 8 to 1 after intervention of their female partners for mesh extrusion.

PAIN

Chronic pelvic pain often presents as a serious and challenging problem after use of synthetic mesh for pelvic floor reconstruction. [164] Groin and thigh pain is a potential problem of mid-urethral sling placement, especially transobturator slings. It has been reported in up to 40% patients after transobturator sling placement. [28] A recent meta-analysis revealed that it was more common in inside-to-outside transobturator approach. [13] Its incidence can be decreased by newly introduced mini-slings, which reported a lower incidence of pain ranging from 0–3.3% only [Table 7]. In POP surgery, the incidence of pain reported in various publications over the last three years is 1.9–24.4% [Table 8–10]. If initial conservative management with anti-inflammatory medications fails to relieve pain, a few patients may need removal of mesh with its attendant risk of recurrence of pelvic floor defect.

United States Food and Drug Administration, manufacturer and user facility device experience (MAUDE) on use of vaginal mesh in female pelvic floor reconstruction

MAUDE data represents reports of adverse events involving medical devices. The data consists of all voluntary reports since June 1993, user facility reports since 1991, distributor reports since 1993, and manufacturer reports since August 1996 and is updated on a monthly basis. [15] There are more than 2310 complications reported with the search criteria of “vaginal mesh” till March 2011. The incidence of complications reported under various search criteria till March 2011 is given in Table 17. A steep increase in the incidence of reported complications with search criteria “vaginal mesh” and “mesh erosion” is noted in the MAUDE database [Figure 5].

In October 2008, the US Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA’s) Centre for Devices and Radiological Health, issued a warning on higher-than-expected complications reported for use of mesh in transvaginal surgeries. [165] The FDA warning states: “Over the past three years, the FDA has received over 1,000 reports from nine surgical mesh manufacturers of complications that were associated with surgical mesh devices used to repair POP and SUI...The most frequent complications included erosions through vaginal epithelium, infection, pain, urinary problems, and recurrence of prolapse and/or incontinence. There were also reports of bowel, bladder, and blood vessel perforation during insertion. In some cases, vaginal scarring and mesh erosion led to a significant decrease in patient quality of life due to discomfort and pain, including dyspareunia.

On July 13, 2011, the FDA stated in a news release, ”There are clear risks associated with the transvaginal placement of mesh to treat POP.” It further stated “The FDA issued a safety communication in 2008 due to increasing concerns about adverse events associated with the transvaginal
placement of mesh. Since then, the number of adverse events has continued to climb. From 2008 to 2010, the FDA received 1503 adverse event reports associated with mesh used for POP repair, five times as many as the agency received from 2005 to 2007. This safety communication was "limited to the transvaginal placement of mesh to repair POP. It does not address the safety and effectiveness of mesh used to treat SUI or mesh implanted abdominally."[166] However, with appropriate counseling these may still be indicated after the surgeon and the patient take into account the benefits and complications thereof. In spite of certain perceived problems with the use of mesh in incontinence procedures, it seems to be safe and beneficial to the patient.

**CONCLUSIONS**

Sub-urethral sling procedures using synthetic meshes are now considered the gold standard for the surgical management of stress urinary incontinence with estimated cure/dry rates ranging from 81–84%. It is now increasingly used in the management of pelvic floor prolapse. It is imperative that we understand the complications associated with these surgeries. Awareness of these complications should help us in proper patient counseling as well as stimulate further investigations of the underlying mechanisms. Decreasing complications should be considered an important outcome in future clinical studies. The incidence of extrusion and erosion with mid-urethral sling is low, the extrusion with prolapse is higher and use in the posterior compartment remains controversial. When used through the abdomen the extrusion and erosion rates are lower. There is an FDA warning about the use of mesh in pelvic organ prolapse.

Figure 5: Incidence of complications reported under various search criteria till March 2011 in the MAUDE database. The incidence till the year 2010 is plotted in the graph; while the number of cases reported in the present year till March 2011 is reflected with in number on right upper quadrant of each graph.

**What is needed in future?**

Surgical management of SUI continues to evolve. The rapid expansion of the market does not await results of the RCTs, a newer and more competitive product could be on the market. This might be the reason why only a few companies and centers are interested in setting up RCTs. Still it is important not to fall prey to industry-driven treatment options, but to follow evidence-based medicine in managing our patients. Ou et al., stressed the impact of attrition rate of follow-up with time that directly affects the strength of Level 1 and 2 studies regarding surgical treatment of female SUI. The incidence of patients lost to follow-up was 8.1% at 12 months, 28% at 24 months, 36% at 36 months and 32.4% at 60 months or greater. Hence it is important to cautiously analyze results of various published studies in the literature. It is also of paramount importance that national societies should establish a registry for complications. There should be a protocol of recording all complications in this registry so as to know the true incidence of morbidities associated with different surgical procedures. Need of proper surgical training and experience in placing vaginal meshes need not be under...
emphasized. [169,170] In order to record the denominator, the industry should consider a form with each kit to record and follow its use.

REFERENCES

1. Nieminen K, Hiltunen R, Takala T, Heiskanen E, Merikari M, Niemi K, et al. Outcomes after anterior vaginal wall repair with mesh: A randomized, controlled trial with a 3 year follow-up. Am J Obstet Gynecol 2010;203:235.e1-8.

2. Ignjatovic I, Stojkovic I, Basic D, Medojevic N, Potic M. Optimal primary minimally invasive treatment for patients with stress urinary incontinence and symptomatic pelvic organ prolapse: Tension free slings with colporrhaphy, or Prolift with the tension free midurethral sling? Eur J Obstet Gynecol Reprod Biol 2010;150:97-101.

3. Nguyen JN, Burchette RJ. Outcome after anterior vaginal prolapse repair: A randomized controlled trial. Obstet Gynecol 2008;111:891-8.

4. Withagen MI, Milani AL, den Boon J, Vervest HA, Vierhout ME. Trocar-guided mesh compared with conventional vaginal repair in recurrent prolapse: A randomized controlled trial. Obstet Gynecol 2011;117(2 Pt 1):242-50.

5. Boreham MK, Wai CY, Miller RT, Schaffer JI, Word RA. Morphometric analysis of smooth muscle in the anterior vaginal wall of women with pelvic organ prolapse. Am J Obstet Gynecol 2002;187:56-63.

6. Chen Y, DeSautel M, Anderson A, Badlani G. Kushner L. Collagen synthesis is not altered in women with stress urinary incontinence. Neurourol Urodyn. 2004;23:367-73.

7. Kushner L, Mathrubutham M, Burney T, Greenwald R, Badlani G. Excretion of collagen derived peptides is increased in women with stress urinary incontinence. Neurourol Urodyn 2004;23:198-203.

8. Karlovsky ME, Kushner L, Badlani GH. Synthetic biomaterials for pelvic floor reconstruction. Curr Urol Rep 2005;6:376-84.

9. Nilsson CG, Palva K, Rezapour M, Falconer C. Eleven years prospective follow-up of the tension-free vaginal tape procedure for treatment of stress urinary incontinence. Int Urogynecol J Pelvic Floor Dysfunct 2008;19:1043-7.

10. Song PH, Kim YD, Kim HT, Lim HS, Hyun CH, Seo JH, et al. The 7-year outcome of the tension-free vaginal tape procedure for treating female stress urinary incontinence. BJU Int 2009;104:1113-7.

11. Olsson I, Abrahamsson AK, Kroon UB. Long-term efficacy of the tension-free vaginal tape procedure for the treatment of urinary incontinence: A retrospective follow-up 11.5 years post-operatively. Int Urogynecol J Pelvic Floor Dysfunct 2010;21:679-83.

12. Long CY, Hsu CS, Wu MP, Liu CM, Wang TN, Tsai EM. Comparison of tension-free vaginal tape and transobturator tape procedure for the treatment of stress urinary incontinence. Curr Opin Obstet Gynecol 2009;21:342-7.

13. Latthe PM, Singh P, Foon R, Toozs-Hobson P. Two routes of transobturator tape procedures in stress urinary incontinence: A meta-analysis with direct and indirect comparison of randomized trials. BJU Int 2010;106:68-76.

14. Rehman H, Bezerra CC, Bruschini H, Cody JD. Traditional suburethral sling operations for urinary incontinence in women. Cochrane Database Syst Rev 2011;1:CD001754.

15. Available from: http://www.fda.gov/MedicalDevices/ DeviceRegulationandGuidance/PostmarketRequirements/ ReportingAdverseEvents/ucm127891.htm [Last accessed on 2011 Aug 01].

16. Amid PK, Shulman AG, Lichtenstein IL, Hakakha M. Biomaterials for abdominal wall hernia surgery and principles of their applications. Langenbecks Arch Chir 1994;379:168-71.

17. Haylen BT, Freeman RM, Swift SE, Cossom M, Davila GW, Deprest J, et al. An International Urogynecological Association (IUGA)/International Continence Society (ICS) joint terminology and classification of the complications related directly to the insertion of prostheses (meshes, implants, tapes) and grafts in female pelvic floor surgery. Neurourol Urodyn 2011;30:2-12.

18. Falagas ME, Velakoulis S, Javazov C, Athanasiou S. Mesh-related infections after pelvic organ prolapse repair surgery. Eur J Obstet Gynecol Reprod Biol 2007;134:147-56.

19. Abed H, Rahn DD, Lowenstein L, Bald EM, Clemmons JL, Rogers RG; For the Systematic Review Group of the Society of Gynecologic Surgeons. Incidence and management of graft erosion, wound granulation, and dyspareunia following vaginal prolapse repair with graft materials: A systematic review. Int Urogynecol J 2011;22:789-98.

20. Guerrero KL, Emery SJ, Warena K, Ismail S, Watkins A, Lucas MG. A randomized controlled trial comparing TVT, Pelvicol and autologous fascial slings for the treatment of stress urinary incontinence in women. BJOG 2010;117:1493-502.

21. Wadie BS, Mansour A, El-Hefny AS, Nabeeh A, Khair AA. Minimum 2-year follow-up of mid-urethral slings, effect on quality of life, incontinence impact and sexual function. Int Urogynecol J 2010;21:1485-90.

22. Freeman R, Holmes D, Hillard T, Smith P, James M, Sultan A, et al. What patients think: Patient-reported outcomes of retropubic versus trans-obturator mid-urethral slings for urodynamic stress incontinence—a multi-centre randomised controlled trial. Int Urogynecol J 2011;22:279-86.

23. Hinou P, Bonnet P, Krofa L, Waldey G, de Leval J. An anatomic comparison of the original versus a modified inside-out transobturator procedure. Int Urogynecol J 2011;22:997-1004.

24. Paparella R, Marturano M, Pelino L, Scarpa A, Scambia G, La Torre G, et al. Prospective randomised trial comparing synthetic vs biological out-in transobturator tape: A mean 3-year follow-up study. Int Urogynecol J 2010;21:1327-36.

25. Deffieux X, Daher N, Mansoor A, Debbasch P, Muhlstein J, Fernandez H. Transobturator TVT-O versus retropubic TVT: Results of a multicenter randomized controlled trial at 24 months follow-up. Int Urogynecol J 2010;21:1337-45.

26. Dyrkorn OA, Kulseng-Hansen S, Sandvik L. TVT compared with TVT-O and TOT: Results from the Norwegian National Incontinence Registry. Int Urogynecol J 2010;21:1321-6.

27. Liapis A, Bakas P, Creatsas G. Comparison of the TVT SECR System “hammock” and “U” tape positions for management of stress urinary incontinence. Int J Gynaecol Obstet 2010;111:233-6.

28. Chen X, Tong X, Jiang M, Li H, Qiu J, Shao L, et al. A modified inexpensive transobturator vaginal tape inside-out procedure versus tension-free vaginal tape for the treatment of SUI: A prospective comparative study. Arch Gynecol Obstet. 2011 Mar 22. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 21424711.

29. Jeong MY, Kim SJ, Kim HS, Koh JS, Kim JG. Comparison of Efficacy and Satisfaction between the TVT-SECUR® and MONARC® Procedures for the Treatment of Female Stress Urinary Incontinence. Korean J Urol 2010;51:767-71.

30. Zugor V, Labanaris AP, Rezaei-jafari MR, Hammerer P, Dembowski J, Witt J, et al. TVT vs. TOT: A comparison in terms of continence results, complications and quality of life after a median follow-up of 48 months. Int Urol Nephrol 2010;42:915-20.

31. Chae HD, Kim SR, Jeon GH, Kim DY, Kim SH, Kim JH, et al. The safety and efficacy of the “inside-out” trans-obturator TVT in elderly women. Int Urogynecol J Pelvic Floor Dysfunct 2008;19:1423-7.

32. Feng CL, Chin HY, Wang KH. Transobturator vaginal tape inside-out procedure for stress urinary incontinence: Results of 102 patients. Int Urogynecol J 2010;21:1392-4.

33. Shah and Badlani: Mesh complication in female pelvic surgery
versus younger stress-incontinent women: A prospective study of 353 consecutive patients. Neurourol Urodyn 2011;30:380-3.

34. Kristensen I, Eldoma M, Williamson T, Wood S, Mainprize T, Ross S. Complications of the tension-free vaginal tape procedure for stress urinary incontinence. Int Urogynecol J 2010;21:1353-7.

35. Kim J, Lucioni A, Govier F, Kobashi K. Worse long-term surgical outcomes in elderly patients undergoing SPARC(TM) retropubic midurethral sling placement. BJU Int 2011;108:708-12.

36. Sun MJ, Tsai HD. Is transobturator suburethral sling effective for treating female urodynamic stress incontinence with low maximal urethral closure pressure? Taiwan J Obstet Gynecol 2011;50:20-4.

37. Kaelin-Gambirasio I, Jacob S, Boulvain M, Dubuisson JB, Dännenbach P. Complications associated with transobturator sling procedures: Analysis of 233 consecutive cases with a 27 months follow-up. BMC Womens Health 2009;25:28.

38. Lee JH, Yoon HJ, Lee SJ, Kim KH, Choi JS, Lee KW. Modified transobturator tape (canal transobturator tape) surgery for female stress urinary incontinence. J Urol 2009;181:2616-21.

39. Youn CS, Shin JH, Na YG. Comparison of TOA and TOT for Treating Transobturator Mesh Group. Transcervical guided transvaginal mesh repair of pelvic organ prolapse. Obstet Gynecol 2009;113:177-26.

40. Errocco C, Rodriguez-Escovar F, Gutierrez C, Baez C, Araño P, Villavicencio H. A re-adjustable sling for female recurrent stress incontinence and sphincteric deficiency: Outcomes and complications in 125 patients using the Remex sling system. Neurourology Urodyn 2010;29:1429-32.

41. Lee SY, Lee YS, Lee NH, Choo MS, Lee JG, Kim HG, et al. Transobturator adjustable tape for severe stress urinary incontinence and stress urinary incontinence with voiding dysfunction. Int Urogynecol J 2011;22:341-6.

42. Maroto JR, Gorraiz MO, Bueno JJ, Pérez LG, Bru JJ, Chaparro LP. Transobturator adjustable tape (TOA) permits to correct postoperatively the tension applied in stress incontinence surgery. Int Urogynecol J 2009;20:797-805.

43. Oliveira R, Botelho F, Silva P, Resende A, Silva C, Dinis P, et al. Exploratory Study Assessing Efficacy and Complications of TVT-O, TVT-Secur, and Mini-Arc: Results at 12-Month Follow-Up. Eur Urol 2011;59:940-4.

44. de Leval J, Thomas A, Waltrigny D. The original versus a modified inside-out transobturator procedure: 1-year results of a prospective randomized trial. Int Urogynecol J 2011;22:145-36.

45. De Ridder D, Berkers J, Deprest J, Verguts J, Ost D, Hamid D, et al. Single incision mini-sling versus a transobturator sling: A comparative study on MiniArc and Monarc slings. Int Urogynecol J 2010;21:773-8.

46. North CE, Hilton P, Ali-Ross NS, Smith AR. A 2-year observational study to determine the efficacy of a novel single incision sling procedure (Minitape) for female stress urinary incontinence. BJOG 2010;117:356-60.

47. Oliveira R, Botelho F, Silva P, Resende A, Silva C, Dinis P, et al. Single-incision sling system as primary treatment of female stress urinary incontinence: Prospective 12 months data from a single institution. BJU Int 2011;108:1616-21.

48. Pickens RB, Klein FA, Mobley JD 3rd, White WM. Single incision mid-urethral sling for treatment of female stress urinary incontinence. Urology 2011;77:521-4.

49. Kennelly MJ, Moore R, Nguyen JN, Lukhan JC, Siegel S. Prospective evaluation of a single incision sling for stress urinary incontinence. J Urol 2010;184:604-9.

50. Diwadkar GB, Barber MD, Feiner B, Maher C, Jelovsek JE. Complication and reoperation rates after apical vaginal prolapse surgical repair: A systematic review. Obstet Gynecol 2009;113(2 Pt 1):367-73.

51. Maher C, Feiner B, Baessler K, Adams EJ, Hagen S, Glazener CM. Surgical management of pelvic organ prolapse in women. Cochrane Database Syst Rev 2010;4:CD004414.

52. Jia X, Glazener C, Mowatt G, Jenkinson D, Fraser C, Bain C, et al. Systematic review of the efficacy and safety of using mesh in surgery for uterine or vaginal vault prolapse. Int Urogynecol J 2010;21:1413-31.

53. Long CY, Hsu CS, Jang MY, Liu CM, Chiang PH, Tsai EM. Comparison of clinical outcome and urodynamic findings using “Perigee and/or Apogee” versus “Prolift anterior and/or posterior” system devices for the treatment of pelvic organ prolapse. Int Urogynecol J 2011;22:233-9.

54. Elmér C, Altman D, Engh ME, Axelson S, Väyrynen T, Falconer C. Nordic Transobturator Mesh Group. Trocar-guided transvaginal mesh repair of pelvic organ prolapse. Obstet Gynecol 2009;113:177-26.

55. Ek M, Altman D, Falconer C, Kulseng-Hansen S, Tegerstedt G. Effects of anterior trocar guided transvaginal mesh surgery on lower urinary tract symptoms. Neurourology Urodyn 2010;29:1419-23.

56. Moore RD, Beyer RD, Jacoby K, Freedman SJ, McCammon KA, Gambla MT. Prospective multicenter trial assessing type I, polypropylene mesh placed via transobturator route for the treatment of anterior vaginal prolapse with 2-year follow-up. Int Urogynecol J 2010;21:545-52.

57. Kaufman Y, Singh SS, Alturki H, Lam A. Age and sexual activity are risk factors for mesh exposure following transvaginal mesh repair. Int Urogynecol J 2011;22:307-13.

58. Fayad AM, North C, Reid FM, Smith AR. Prospective study of anterior transobturator mesh kit (Prolift™) for the management of recurrent anterior vaginal wall prolapse. Int Urogynecol J 2011;22:157-63.

59. Lawndy SS, Kluiwers KB, Milan AI, Withagen MI, Hendriks JC, Vierhout ME. Which factors determine subjective improvement following pelvic organ prolapse 1 year after surgery? Int Urogynecol J 2011;22:542-3.

60. Cosma S, Preti M, Mitidieri M, Petruzzielli P, Possavino F, Menato G. Posterior intravaginal slingplasty: Efficacy and complications in a continuous series of 118 cases. Int Urogynecol J 2011;22:611-9.

61. Lo TS, Ashok K. Combined anterior trans-obturator mesh and sacropinous ligament fixation in women with severe prolapse—a case series of 30 months follow-up. Int Urogynecol J 2011;22:299-306.

62. Jacquetin B, Bosson M, Debodinance P, Hinoul P. Vaginal mesh for prolapse: A randomized controlled trial. Obstet Gynecol 2010;116:1457-8.

63. McDermott CD, Terry CL, Woodman PJ, Hale DS. Surgical outcomes following total Prolift: Colpoxepxy versus hysterectomy. Aust N Z J Obstet Gynaecol 2011;51:61-6.

64. Lau HY, Twu NF, Chen YJ, Horng HC, Jiang CM, Chao KC. Comparing effectiveness of combined transobturator tension-free vaginal mesh (Perigee) and transobturator tension-free vaginal tape (TVT-O) versus anterior colporrhaphy and TVT-O for associated cystocele and urodynamic stress incontinence. Eur J Obstet Gynecol Reprod Biol 2011;156:228-32.

65. Vaiyapuri GR, Han HC, Lee LC, Tseng LA, Wong HF. Use of the Gynecare Prolift® system in surgery for pelvic organ prolapse: 1-year outcome. Int J Obstet Gynecol 2011;22:869-77.

66. Huang WC, Lin TY, Lau HH, Chen SS, Hsieh CH, Su TH. Outcome of transvaginal pelvic reconstructive surgery with Prolift after a median series of 30 months follow-up. Int Urogynecol J 2011;22:299-306.

67. Shveiky D, Sokol RE, Gutman RE, Kudish BI, Iglesia CB. Vaginal mesh colpoxepxy for the treatment of concomitant full thickness rectal and pelvic organ prolapse: A case series. Eur J Obstet Gynecol Reprod Biol 2011;157:113-5.

68. Eboue C, Marcus-Braun N, von Theobald P. Cystocele repair by posterior intravaginal slingplasty: Efficacy and complications in a monocentric experience of first series of 30 months follow-up. Int Urogynecol J 2011;22:542-3.

69. Park HK, Paick SH, Lee BK, Kang MB, Jun KK, Kim HG. Initial experience of combined transobturator tension-free vaginal mesh (Prolift) and transobturator tension-free vaginal tape (TVT-O) versus anterior colporrhaphy and TVT-O for associated cystocele and urodynamic stress incontinence. Int Urogynecol J 2011;22:542-3.

70. Shveiky D, Sokol RE, Gutman RE, Kudish BI, Iglesia CB. Vaginal mesh colpoxepxy for the treatment of concomitant full thickness rectal and pelvic organ prolapse: A case series. Eur J Obstet Gynecol Reprod Biol 2011;157:113-5.

71. Argirovic RB, Gudovic AM, Babovic IR, Berisavic MV. Transvaginal repair of vaginal prolapse with polypropylene mesh using a tension-free
103. Sergent F, Resch B, Loisel C, Bisson V, Schaal JP, Marpeau L. Mid-term technique. Eur J Obstet Gynecol Reprod Biol 2011;153:104-7.

104. Ganef JA, Ibeana OA, Bedestani A, Nolan TE, Chesson RR. Complications of transvaginal monofilament polypropylene mesh in pelvic organ prolapse repair. Int Urogynecol J 2009;20:919-25.

105. Caquant F, Collinet P, Debodinance P, Berrocal J, Garbin O, Rosenthal C, et al. Safety of Trans Vaginal Mesh procedure: Retrospective study of 684 patients. J Obstet Gynaecol Res 2008;34:449-56.

106. Gabriel B, Rubod C, Córdova LG, Lucot JP, Cosson M. Prolapse surgery in women of 80 years and older using the Prolift™ technique. Int Urogynecol J 2010;21:1463-70.

107. Ghezzi E, Uccella S, Crozini A, Bogani G, Candeloro I, Serati M, et al. Surgical treatment for pelvic floor disorders in women 75 years or older: A single-center experience. Menopause 2011;18:314-8.

108. Cundiff GW, Varner E, Visco AG, Zyczynski HM, Nager CW, Norton PA, et al. Pelvic Floor Disorders Network. Risk factors for mesh/suture erosion following sacral colpopexy. Am J Obstet Gynecol 2008;199:668-8.

109. Lee JK, Agnew G, Dwyer PL. Mesh-related chronic infections in silicone-coated polyester suburethral slings. Int Urogynecol J 2011;22:29-35.

110. Govier FE, Kobsahi KC, Kuznetsov DD, Comiter C, Jones P, Dakil SE, et al. Complications of transvaginal silicone-coated polyester synthetic mesh sling. Urology 2005;66:741-5.

111. Yamada BS, Govier FE, Stefanovic KB, Kobsahi KC. High rate of vaginal erosions associated with the Mentor ObTape. J Urol 2006;176:651-4.

112. Milani AL, Honou P, Gauld JM, Sikirica V, van Drie D, Cosson M; Prolift + M Investigators. Trocar-guided mesh repair of vaginal prolapse using partially absorbable mesh: 1 year outcomes. Am J Obstet Gynecol 2011;204:74.

113. Cervigni M, Natale F, La Penna C, Saltari M, Padoa A, Agostini M. Collagen-coated polypropylene mesh in vaginal prolapse surgery: An observational study. Eur J Obstet Gynecol Reprod Biol 2011;156:223-7.

114. Araco F, Gravante G, Overton J, Araco P, Dati S. Transvaginal cystocele correction: Midterm results with a transobturator tension-free technique using a combined bovine pericardium/polypropylene mesh. J Obstet Gynaecol Res 2009;35:953-60.

115. Karp DR, Peterson TV, Mahdy A, Ghoniem G, Aguilar VC, Davila GW. Corral Rosillo J, Prieto Nogal S, et al. Prosima Study Investigators. One-year clinical outcomes after prolapse surgery with nonanchored mesh and vaginal support device. Am J Obstet Gynecol 2010;203:506.

116. Alcalay M, Cosson M, Livneh M, Lucot JP, Von Theobald P. Trocarless system for mesh attachment in pelvic organ prolapse repair-1-year evaluation. Int Urogynecol J 2011;22:551-6.

117. Zyczynski HM, Carey MP, Smith AR, Gauld JM, Robinson D, Sikirica V, et al. Prostate Study Investigators. One-year clinical outcomes after prolapse surgery with nonanchored mesh and vaginal support device. Am J Obstet Gynecol 2010;203:587.

118. Kayvadias T, Kaemmer D, Klinge U, Kuschel S, Schuessler B. Foreign body reaction in vaginally eroded and noneroded polypropylene suburethral slings in the female: A case series. Int Urogynecol J 2009;20:1473-6.

119. Amrute KV, Eisenberg ER, Rastinehad AR, Kushner L, Badlani GH. Analysis of outcomes of single polypropylene mesh in total pelvic floor reconstruction. Neurourol Urodyn 2007;26:53-8.

120. Patel BM, Smith JJ, Badlani GH. Minimizing the cost of surgical correction of stress urinary incontinence and prolapse. Urology 2009;74:762-4.

121. Fin amore PS, Echols KT, Hunter K, Goldstein HB, Holzberg AS, Vakili B. Risk factors for mesh erosion 3 months following vaginal reconstructive surgery using commercial kits vs. mufashioned mesh-augmented vaginal repairs. Int Urogynecol J 2010;21:285-91.

122. Murray S, Havercorn RM, Lotan Y, Lemack GE. Mesh kits for anterior vaginal prolapse are not cost effective. Int Urogynecol J 2011;22:447-52.

123. Stepanian AA, Miklos JR, Moore RD, Mattox TF. Risk of mesh extrusion and other mesh-related complications after laparoscopic sacral colpopexy with or without concurrent laparoscopic-assisted vaginal hysterectomy: Experience of 402 patients. J Minim Invasive Gynecol 2008;15:188-96.

124. Mabot C, Feiner B, Baessler K, Adams EJ, Hagen S, Glazener CM. Surgical management of pelvic organ prolapse in women. Cochrane Database Syst Rev 2010;4:CD004014.

125. Costantini E, Lazzeri M, Bini V, Del Zingaro M, Zucchi A, Porena M. Pelvic organ prolapse repair with and without prophylactic concomitant burch colposuspension in continent women: A randomized, controlled trial with 8-year followup. J Urol 2011;185:2236-40.

126. Moon YJ, Jeon MJ, Kim SK, Bai SW. Comparison of Burch colposuspension and transobturator tape when combined with abdominal sacrol隨opexy. Int J Gynaecol Obstet 2011;112:122-5.

127. Park HK, Paick SH, Lee BK, Kang MB, Jun KK, Kim HG. Initial experience with concomitant prolift™ system and tension-free vaginal tape procedures in patients with stress urinary incontinence and cystocele. Int Neurourol J 2010;14:43-7.

128. Gneuss E, Lazzeri M, Bini V, Del Zingaro M, Zucchi A, Porena M. Pelvic organ prolapse repair with and without prophylactic concomitant burch colposuspension in continent women: A randomized, controlled trial with 8-year followup. J Urol 2011;185:2236-40.

129. Marinelli RU, Liewicky-Gaupp C, Fenner DE, McGuire EJ, Clemens QJ, De Lanceyet JO. Complications requiring reoperation following vaginal mesh kit procedures for prolapse. Am J Obstet Gynecol 2008;199:678-e1-678-e4.

130. Deval B, Haab F. Management of the complications of the synthetic slings. Curr Opin Urol 2006;16:240-3.

131. Geller EJ, Parnell BA, Dunivan GC. Pelvic floor function before and after robotic sacrocolpopexy: One-year outcomes. J Minim Invasive Gynecol 2011;18:322-7.

132. Moreno Sierra J, Orts Oshiro E, Fernandez Perez C, Galante Romo I, Corral Rosillo J, Prieto Nogal S, et al. Long-Term Outcomes after Robotic Sacrocolpopexy in Pelvic Organ Prolapse: Prospective Analysis. Urol Int 2011;86:414-8.

133. Maher CF, Feiner B, Decuyper EM, Nichols CJ, Hickey KV, O'Rourke P. Laparoscopic sacral colpopexy versus total vaginal mesh for vaginal vault prolapse: A randomized trial. Am J Obstet Gynecol 2011;204:360-e17.

134. Sergent F, Resch B, Loisel C, Bisson V, Schaall JP, Marpeau L. Mid-term outcome of laparoscopic sacrocolpopexy with anterior and posterior polyester mesh for treatment of genito-uretral incontinence. Eur J Obstet Gynecol Reprod Biol 2011;156:217-22.

135. Xylina E, Ouzaid I, Durand X, Ploussard G, Salomon L, Gillion N, et al. Robot-assisted laparoscopic sacral colpopexy: Initial experience in a high-volume laparoscopic reference center, J Endourol 2010;24:1985-9.

136. Wong Y, Meurette G, Rigaud J, Regenet N, Lehar PA. Robotic versus laparoscopic rectopexy for complex rectocele: A prospective comparison of short-term outcomes. Dis Colon Rectum 2011;54:342-6.

137. Onol FF, Kaye E, Köse O, Onol SY. A novel technique for the management of advanced uterine/vault prolapse: Extraperitoneal sacrocolpopexy. Int Urogynecol J 2011;22:855-61.

138. Wang Y, Wang D, Li Y, Liang Z, Xu H. Laparoscopic sacrospinous ligament fixation for uterovaginal prolapse: Experience with 93 cases. Int Urogynecol J 2011;22:839-9.

139. Kobashi KC, Govier FE. Management of vaginal erosion of polypropylene mesh slings. J Urol 2003;169:2242-3.

140. Deffieux X, de Tayrac R, Huel C, Bottero J, Gervaise A, Bonnet K, et al. Vaginal mesh erosion after transvaginal repair of cystocele using Gynemesh or Gynemesh-Soft in 138 women: A comparative study. Int Urogynecol J 2007;18:73-9.
110. Collinet P, Belot F, Debodinance P, Ha Duc E, Lucot JP, Cosson M. Transvaginal mesh technique for pelvic organ prolapse repair: Mesh exposure management and risk factors. Int Urogynecol J 2006;17:315-20.

111. Lo TS, Lee SJ. Simple sling resection and a second, intermediate midurethral polypropylene mesh for treatment of vaginal tape protrusion concurrent with recurrent urinary stress incontinence after TVT procedure. J Obstet Gynecol Res 2007;33:739-42.

112. South MM, Foster RT, Webster GD, Weidner AC, Amundsen CL. Surgical excision of eroded mesh after prior abdominal sacrocolpocytomy. Am J Obstet Gynecol 2007;197:615.e1-5.

113. Deng DY, Rutman M, Raz S, Rodriguez IV. Presentation and management of major complications of midurethral slings: Are complications under-reported? Neurourol Urodyn 2007;26:46-52.

114. Orordova R, Rodriguez AR, Coste-Delvecchio F, Hoffman M, Lockhart J. Disabling complications with slings for managing female stress urinary incontinence. BJU Int 2008;102:333-6.

115. Velemir L, Amblard J, Jacquetin B, Fatton B. Urethral erosion after suburethral synthetic slings: Risk factors, diagnosis, and functional outcome after surgical management. Int Urogynecol J 2008;19:999-1006.

116. Blandon RE, Gebhart JB, Trabuco EC, Klingele CJ. Complications from vaginally placed mesh in pelvic reconstructive surgery. Int Urogynecol J 2009 Feb 10. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 1929374.

117. Kuhn A, Eggeman C, Burkhard F, Mueller MD. Correction of erosion after suburethral sling insertion for stress incontinence: Results and related sexualfunction. Eur Urol 2009;56:371-6.

118. Araco F, Gravante G, DE Vita D, Konda D, Rombola P, Araco P, et al. Obturator abscess with spread to the thigh after three years from a transobturator procedure. Aust N Z J Obstet Gynecol 2009;49:333-6.

119. Shaker D. Surgical management of vaginal mesh erosion: An alternative to excision. Int Urogynecol J 2010;21:499-501.

120. Firoozi F, Ingher MS, Goldman HB. Pure transvaginal removal of eroded mesh and retained foreign body in the bladder. Int Urogynecol J 2010;21:757-60.

121. Khong SY, Lam A. Use of Surgisis mesh in the management of polypropylene mesh erosion into the vagina. Int Urogynecol J 2011;22:416.

122. Costantini E, Zucchi A, Lazzeri M, Del Zingaro M, Vianello A, Porena M. Managing Mesh Erosion after Abdominal Pelvic Organ Prolapse Repair: Ten Years’ Experience in a Single Center. Urol Int 2011;86:419-23.

123. Irer B, Aslan G, Cimen S, Bozkurt O, Celebi I. Development of vesical calculi following tension-free vaginal tape procedure. Int Urogynecol J 2005;16:245-6.

124. Quiroz LH, Cundiff GW. Transurethral resection of tension-free vaginal tape under tactile traction. Int Urogynecol J 2009;20:873-5.

125. Wijffels SA, Elzevier HW, Lycklama A, Nijeholt AA. Transurethral and suprapubic mesh resection after Prolift bladder perforation: A case report. Int Urogynecol J 2010;21:1301-3.

126. Marcus-Braun N, von Theobald P. Mesh removal following intravaginal slingplasty. Obstet Gynecol 2005;106:713-6.

127. Stepanian AA, Miklos JR, Mattos TF. Risk of mesh extrusion and othermesh-related complications after laparo- scopic sacrocolpexy with or without concurrent laparoscopic-assisted vaginal hysterectomy: Experience of 402 patients. J Minim Invasive Gynecol 2008;15:188-96.

128. Misrai V, Rouprêt M, Xylinas E, Cour F, Vaessen C, Haertig A, et al. Laparoscopic removal of pubovaginal polypropylene tension-free tape slings. JSLS 2006;10:220-5.

129. Baessler K, Hewson AD, Tunn R, Schuessler B, Maher CF. Severe mesh complications following intravaginal slingplasty. Obstet Gynecol 2005;106:713-6.

130. Angulo JC, Mateo E, Lista F, Andrés G. Reconstructive treatment of vesical and urethral perforations after tension-free vaginal tape (TVT) procedure for female stress urinary incontinence. Clinics (Sao Paulo) 2005;60:397-400.

131. Rosenblatt P, Pulliam S, Edwards R, Boyles SH. Suprapubically assisted operative cystoscopy in the management of intravesical TVT synthetic mesh segments. Int Urogynecol J 2005;16:509-11.

132. Parekh MH, Minassian VA, Poplawsky D. Bilateral bladder erosion of a transobturator tape mesh. Obstet Gynecol 2006;108(Pt 2):713-5.

133. Bekker MD, Bevers RF, Elzevier HW. Transurethral and suprapubic mesh resection after ProLift bladder perforation: A case report. Int Urogynecol J 2010;21:1301-3.

134. Frenkl TL, Rackley RR, Vasavada SP, Goldman HB. Management of female urethral estenosis secondary to erosion by suburethral tape. BJU Int 2005;96:1472-8.

135. Feiner B, Auslander R, Mecz Y, Lissak A, Stein A, Abramov Y. Removal of an eroded transobturator tape from the bladder using laser cystolithotripsy and cystoscopic resection. Urology 2009;73:681.e15-6.

136. Al-Badr A, Fouda K. Suprapubic-assisted cystoscopic excision of intravesical tension-free vaginal tape. J Minim Invasive Gynecol 2005;12:370-1.

137. Cornel EB, Verveert HA. Removal of a missed polypropylene tape by a combined transurethral and transabdominal endoscopic approach. Int Urogynecol J 2005;16:247-9.

138. Velemir L, Amblard J, Jacquetin B, Fatton B. Urethral erosion after suburethral synthetic slings: Risk factors, diagnosis, and functional outcome after surgical management. Int Urogynecol J 2008;19:999-1006.

139. Costantini E, Zucchi A, Lazzeri M, Del Zingaro M, Vianello A, Porena M. Managing Mesh Erosion after Abdominal Pelvic Organ Prolapse Repair: Ten Years’ Experience in a Single Center. Urol Int 2011;86:419-23.

140. Irer B, Aslan G, Cimen S, Bozkurt O, Celebi I. Development of vesical calculi following tension-free vaginal tape procedure. Int Urogynecol J 2005;16:245-6.

141. Quiroz LH, Cundiff GW. Transurethral resection of tension-free vaginal tape under tactile traction. Int Urogynecol J 2009;20:873-5.

142. Wijffels SA, Elzevier HW, Lycklama A, Nijeholt AA. Transurethral mesh resection after urethral erosion of tension-free vaginal tape: Report of three cases and review of literature. Int Urogynecol J 2009;20:261-3.

143. Barralbal-Martin M, Tsinat-Ranera J, Mijan-Ortiz JL, Zuluaga-Gomez A. Bladder lithiasis on tension-free polypropylene tape after TVT technique. Urol Res 2010;38:519-21.

144. Girolami SF, D’Amico R, Fasulo A, Terragni F, Martini D. Laparoscopic complete sling resection for tension-free vaginal tape-related complications refractory to first-line conservative management: A single-centre experience. Eur Urol 2010;58:270-4.

145. Angulo JC, Mateo E, Lista F, André M. Reconstructive treatment of female urethral estenosis secondary to erosion by suburethral tape. Actas Urol Esp 2011;35:240-5.

146. Al-Wadi K, Al-Badr A. Martius graft for the management of tension-free vaginal tape vaginal erosion. Obstet Gynecol 2009;114(2 Pt 2):489-91.

147. Nicolson A, Adeyemo D. Colovaginal fistula: A rare long-term complication of polypropylene mesh sacrocolpopexy. J Obstet Gynaecol 2009;29:444-5.

148. Hopkins MP, Rooney C. Entero mesh vaginal fistula secondary to abdominal sacral colpophysey. Obstet Gynecol 2004;103:1035-6.

149. Shah A, Shah S, Badlani M. Complications of vaginal mesh: Our experience. Int Urogynecol J 2009;20:893-6.

150. Clavel A, Yahii H, Mamou J, Montanari S, Gounon P, Clave H, et al. Disabling complications with slings for managing female stress urinary incontinence. BJU Int 2008;102:333-6.

151. Shah and Badlani: Mesh complication in female pelvic surgery
Polypropylene as a reinforcement in pelvic surgery is not inert: Comparative analysis of 100 explants. Int Urogynecol J 2010;21:261-70.

155. Bako A, Dhar R. Review of synthetic mesh-related complications in pelvic floor reconstructive surgery. Int Urogynecol J 2009;20:103-11.

156. Lee SY, Kim JY, Park SK, Kwon YW, Nguyen HB, Chang IH, et al. Bilateral Recurrent Thigh Abscesses for Five Years after a Transobturator Tape Implantation for Stress Urinary Incontinence. Korean J Urol 2010;51:657-9.

157. Lo TS. One-year outcome of concurrent anterior and posterior transvaginal mesh surgery for treatment of advanced urogenital prolapse: Case series. J Minim Invasive Gynecol 2010;17:473-9.

158. Dietz HP, Vancaillie P, Svehla M, Walsh W, Steensma AB, Vancaillie TG. Mechanical properties of urogynecologic implant materials. Int Urogynecol J 2003;14:239-43.

159. Feiner B, Maher C. Vaginal mesh contraction: Definition, clinical presentation, and management. Obstet Gynecol 2010;115(2 Pt 1):325-30.

160. Foon R, Smith P. The effectiveness and complications of graft materials used in vaginal prolapse surgery. Curr Opin Obstet Gynecol 2009;21:424-7.

161. Neuman M: TVT-obturator: Short-term data on an operative procedure for the cure of female stress urinary incontinence performed on 300 patients. Eur Urol 2007;51:1083.

162. Mohr S, Kuhn P, Mueller MD, Kuhn A. Painful Love—Hispareunia” after Sling Erosion of the Female Partner. J Sex Med 2011;8:1740-6.

163. Lin LL, Haessler AL, Ho MH, Betson LH, Alinsod RM, Bhatia NN. Dyspareunia and chronic pelvic pain after polypropylene mesh augmentation for transvaginal repair of anterior vaginal wall prolapse. Int Urogynecol J 2007;18:675-8.

164. US Food and Drug Administration Web site. Available from: http://www.fda.gov/cdrh/safety/102008-surgicalmesh.html. Updated October 21, 2008. [Last accessed on 2011 Aug 01].

165. US Food and Drug Administration Web site. Available from: http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm262752.htm [Last accessed on 2011 Aug 01].

166. Dmochowski RR, Blaivas JM, Gormley EM, Juma S, Karram MM, Lightner DJ, et al. Update of AUA Guideline on the Surgical Management of Female Stress Urinary Incontinence. J Urol 2010;183:1906-14.

167. Jacquetin B, Cosson M. Complications of vaginal mesh: Our experience. Int Urogynecol J 2009;20:893-6.

168. Daneshgari F, Kong W, Swartz M. Complications of mid urethral slings: Important outcomes for future clinical trials. J Urol 2008;180:1890-7.

How to cite this article: Shah HN, Badlani GH. Mesh complications in female pelvic floor reconstructive surgery and their management: A systematic review. Indian J Urol 2012;28:129-53.

Source of Support: Nil, Conflict of Interest: None declared.

Author Help: Reference checking facility

The manuscript system (www.journalonweb.com) allows the authors to check and verify the accuracy and style of references. The tool checks the references with PubMed as per a predefined style. Authors are encouraged to use this facility, before submitting articles to the journal.

• The style as well as bibliographic elements should be 100% accurate, to help get the references verified from the system. Even a single spelling error or addition of issue number/month of publication will lead to an error when verifying the reference.

• Example of a correct style

Sheahan P, O'leary G, Lee G, Fitzgibbon J. Cystic cervical metastases: Incidence and diagnosis using fine needle aspiration biopsy. Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg 2002;127:294-8.

• Only the references from journals indexed in PubMed will be checked.

• Enter each reference in new line, without a serial number.

• Add up to a maximum of 15 references at a time.

• If the reference is correct for its bibliographic elements and punctuations, it will be shown as CORRECT and a link to the correct article in PubMed will be given.

• If any of the bibliographic elements are missing, incorrect or extra (such as issue number), it will be shown as INCORRECT and link to possible articles in PubMed will be given.