

Bladder Symptoms One Year after Abdominal Sacrocolpopexy with and without Burch Colposuspension in Women without Preoperative Stress Incontinence Symptoms

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Objective: To describe changes in irritative bladder symptoms, obstructive voiding symptoms, and stress incontinence 1 year after abdominal sacrocolpopexy (ASC) with vs. without Burch colposuspension in women without preoperative stress incontinence symptoms.

Material and Methods: We analyzed one year outcomes of the Colpopexy And Urinary Reduction Efforts (CARE) Study, a prospective randomized trial aimed to assess whether adding Burch colposuspension to ASC in stress continent women with pelvic organ prolapse decreases postoperative stress incontinence. One year after surgery, participants completed the 28-item Urogenital Distress Inventory (UDI) subscale of the PFDI administered by telephone interview. Irritative, obstructive voiding and stress incontinence symptoms were assessed using the UDI subscales and symptoms categorized as bothersome if the woman recorded that they were at least “moderately” or “quite a bit” bothersome. A composite “stress endpoint” was defined as a “yes” response to any of the three questions on the UDI stress subscale regarding leakage with “coughing, sneezing or laughing,” “physical exercise,” or “lifting or bending over;” or urine loss on standardized stress test; or any treatment or retreatment of stress incontinence. Urge incontinence was defined as a positive response to the UDI urge incontinence question.

Results: At 1 year, 282 of 322 (88%) randomized subjects completed assessment. Participants were a predominantly Caucasian sample with a mean age of 61. Fewer women in the Burch group met criteria for the stress endpoint compared to the No Burch group (23.9% vs. 40.7%; $p = .006$); and they had lower scores on the stress incontinence subscale of the UDI (5.0 vs. 10.8, $p = .003$). However, the percentage of women with bothersome stress incontinence symptoms did

not differ significantly between the Burch and No Burch groups (5.9% (n = 8) vs. 11.1% (n = 16); p = .21). Urge incontinence was less prevalent in the Burch group compared to the No Burch group (13.1% vs. 26.9%, p = .03). Among 152 women with at least one bothersome irritative symptom before surgery, 111 (73.0%) reported no bothersome irritative symptoms after surgery. New bothersome irritative symptoms were reported by 11 of 125 (8.8%) women without prior symptoms. Among 228 women with bothersome obstructive symptoms before surgery, 195 (85.5%) reported no bothersome obstructive symptoms after surgery. New bothersome obstructive symptoms occurred in 3 of 50 (6.0%) women without prior symptoms. No differences in either resolution or de novo development of bothersome irritative or obstructive symptoms were found between the Burch and No Burch groups.

Conclusions: Bothersome irritative and obstructive symptoms improved after ASC, with no apparent impact of Burch colposuspension. However, the Burch procedure significantly reduced postoperative symptoms of stress and urge incontinence.