

**CONTROL ID:** 553757

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**TITLE:** EFFECTS OF COLPOCLEISIS ON BOWEL SYMPTOMS AMONG WOMEN WITH SEVERE PELVIC ORGAN PROLAPSE

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**INSTITUTIONS (ALL):** 1. Washington Hospital Center, Washington, DC, USA.

**ABSTRACT BODY:**

**Objectives :** To evaluate changes in bowel symptoms one year after colpocleisis.

**Materials and Methods:** This was a planned ancillary analysis from a Pelvic Floor Disorders Network cohort study of colpocleisis in women with Stages III-IV pelvic organ prolapse. Colpocleisis (total or partial) and concomitant procedures (perineorrhaphy, levator myorrhaphy, and/or incontinence surgery) were performed at the discretion of the surgeon. Baseline and 1-year follow-up data included POP-Q examination and validated questionnaires including the Colorectal-Anal Distress Inventory (CRADI) and Colorectal-Anal Impact Questionnaire (CRAIQ). Women with baseline and 1 year questionnaire data were included. "Bothersome" CRADI symptoms were defined as the presence of a symptom and a bother >2 ("moderately" or "quite a bit"). Baseline and postoperative CRADI and CRAIQ scores were compared, and postoperative symptom resolution (bothersome symptom at baseline but not at 1 year) and new symptom development (bothersome symptom at 1 year but not at baseline) were measured. Statistical analysis was performed using McNemar's test, Wilcoxon scores test and Wilcoxon signed-rank test.

**Results :** 121 of 152 subjects (80%) completed baseline and 1 year questionnaires. Mean age was 79.2±5.4 years, BMI was 27.8±5.2, and 110 (91%) were Caucasian. Seventy-three (60%) had prior hysterectomy and 28 (23%) prior prolapse surgery. Seventy-two (62%) had stage III and 45 (38%) stage IV prolapse. Seventy-four (61%) underwent partial and 47 (39%) total colpocleisis. Most had levator myorrhaphy (71%) and perineorrhaphy (97%). At least one bothersome bowel symptom was present in 77% of subjects at baseline, including obstructive symptoms (17-26%), incontinence symptoms (12-35%) and pain/irritative symptoms (3-34%). All bothersome obstructive and most bothersome incontinence symptoms were less prevalent 1 year after surgery. CRADI (composite and subscales) and CRAIQ scores decreased significantly after surgery ( $p < 0.0001$  for all), with the greatest change seen in the CRADI composite [median 53.3 (interquartile range 21.4, 106) and 23.3 (3.6, 63.6) at baseline and 1 year, respectively] and obstructive subscale [20.8 (0, 41.7) and 0 (0, 16.7) at baseline and 1 year, respectively] scores. Bothersome bowel symptoms resolved in the majority of subjects (50-100% for each symptom) with low rates of de novo bothersome symptoms (0-14%). Rates of symptom resolution and new symptom development appeared similar in those who did and did not undergo levator myorrhaphy.

**Conclusion :** Bothersome bowel symptoms are prevalent among women with severe prolapse undergoing colpocleisis. Most of these symptoms improve after colpocleisis, especially obstructive and incontinence symptoms, and low rates of de novo postoperative symptoms develop.

**KEYWORDS:** colpocleisis, bowel symptoms, colorectal-anal distress inventory, Le-Fort.

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