

Small Case Series of Laproscopic Cervical Cerclage In Patients of Cervical Incompetence



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ABSTRACT:

Cervical incompetence may be due to obstetric, gynecological or congenital causes. The laparoscopic cerclage is highly recommended for previous failed vaginal cerclage & is superior to laparotomy approach in terms of low morbidity, faster recovery.

In this small case series of 3 patients who underwent preconceptional laparoscopic cerclage, we tried to evaluate outcome of preconceptional laparoscopic cerclage in patients of cervical incompetence.

All 3 patients had h/o at least two late second trimester abortion or early 3rd trimester spontaneous preterm birth and at least one failed vaginal cerclage.

Preconceptional laparoscopic cerclage was done with mersilene tape.

Main outcome was neonatal survival & prolongation of gestation and any Intra or postoperative complications.

In our small case series of Laparoscopic cervical cerclage, there were no Intraoperative or postoperative complications. There were no cases of failure. However only 1 patient delivered healthy child at >36 weeks. One patient had ongoing pregnancy but required termination due to congenital anomaly required hysterotomy for lethal congenital anomaly, and one is done recently, yet to try for pregnancy.

INTRODUCTION:

Cervical incompetence is known to occur in 1% of all pregnancies, it recurs in 30% cases. It typically presents in second trimester of pregnancy as pelvic pressure and painless cervical dilatation in the absence of uterine activity. Cervical

incompetence is a complex phenomenon with multiple underlying etiologies. It can be due to previous obstetric or gynecological trauma, congenital weakness or shortness. Cerclage can be done vaginally, which is conventional surgery, or abdominally, which can be either laparoscopic or laparotomy approach.

Transabdominal approach was first described by Benson & Durfee in 1965; indication was extended by Novy in 1982, for failed vaginal cerclage in previous pregnancy.

CASE SERIES:

Aim of this case series is to evaluate obstetric outcome of preconceptional laparoscopic cervical encerclage in patients of cervical incompetence.

Operative procedure:

Primary 10mm port made supraumbilically. 3 other 5mm ports made under vision, one at palmer's point(2 finger breath below left costal margin in MCL)and one each between ant.sup.iliac spine and inf.epigastric vessels on both sides. UV fold opened, bladder pushed down and isthmus and cervix exposed. Uterine vessels skeletonised. Round bodied ski needle of mersilene tape passed posterior to anterior medial to uterine vessels through the substance of uterus at the level of isthmus bilaterally . 6 knots of mersilene tape tied anteriorly and were fixed using ethibond(non absorbable suture) 2-0. UV fold was closed.

Case 1:

31 yr lady, married since 14yrs, presented with primary infertility. She was obese with typical signs and symptoms of polycystic

ovarian syndrome. She conceived 4 times, with IVF-ICSI treatment. In her first pregnancy, she had single gestation; Patient had painless cervical dilatation at 16wks followed by spontaneous abortion. Second time she conceived, it was twin gestation, resulted in missed abortion at 8wks. In her third pregnancy, MacDonald's vaginal cerclage was done at 13wks i/v/o previous h/o 2nd trimester miscarriage & transvaginal scan showing short cervix. She was advised rest, tocolytics, but in spite of all the precautions, she aborted at 18-19wks. Fourth pregnancy was a blighted ovum at 7wks.

Pre-pregnancy laparoscopic cerclage was planned for her i/v/o failed vaginal cerclage with cervical incompetence & BOH.

She conceived in next IVF-ICSI cycle again. In this pregnancy her antenatal period was uneventful, successfully completed 36wks of gestation. She delivered by elective cesarean section, baby of birth wt. 2.94kg without any intraoperative or postoperative complications. The tape was left in situ, precaution was taken to mark lower segment horizontal incision slightly above the usual site, so that the tape was not disturbed, as the lady was interested in future fertility.

Case 2:

31 year old lady with h/o 3 pregnancy loss.

1st pregnancy was conceived with ovulation induction. Patient had full term vaginal delivery of stillborn child. Exact cause of IUFD could not be determined.

2nd pregnancy was conceived with ovulation induction and 3rd with IUI. Both 2nd and 3rd pregnancy patient had preterm vaginal delivery at 6 months amenorrhea (26-28wks). Patient had painless cervical



dilatation followed by leaking in both pregnancies. Patient had h/o vaginal encerclage in both pregnancies. Neonate expired after 17 days in 2nd pregnancy and immediately after birth in 3rd pregnancy.

Patient's blood investigations for repeated pregnancy loss including screening for APLA syndrome and karyotype were normal.

Laparoscopic cervical encerclage was done. There was no Intraoperative or postoperative complications.

Patient conceived with IUI in 4th pregnancy. She was diagnosed with lethal congenital anomaly at 20 weeks. Patient had termination at other hospital by elective hysterotomy.

Case 3:

40 years old lady with history of infertility due to male factor (severe oligoasthenospermia).

Patient had h/o 3 pregnancy loss.

1st pregnancy was twin conception conceived with IVF. Patient had painless cervical dilatation followed by leaking at 25 weeks. 2 female children were delivered by Caesarean section; both expired after 2 weeks of delivery. Patient had h/o vaginal encerclage in this pregnancy.

2nd pregnancy was single conception conceived with IVF which resulted in missed abortion at 7 weeks.

3rd pregnancy was twin conception conceived with IVF. Patient had vaginal encerclage at 13 weeks. Patient had pain and leaking at 16-17 weeks and twins spontaneously aborted vaginally.

Patients blood work including karyotype was normal except borderline elevated B2 Glycoprotein IgM, for which hematologist was consulted. Patient was advised no treatment.

Laparoscopic cervical encerclage was done recently.

Patient is yet to conceive as the procedure is done recently. However in case of previous CS the operative procedure and the

postoperative period were uneventful.

In our small case series of Laparoscopic cervical encerclage, there were no Intraoperative or postoperative complications. There were no cases of failure. However only 1 patient delivered healthy child at >36 weeks. One patient had ongoing pregnancy but required termination due to lethal congenital anomaly, and one is done recently, yet to try for pregnancy.

DISCUSSION:

With proper selection of patients and good operative skills, preconceptional cerclage proved safe and effective, resulting in favorable obstetric outcome in this patient with cervical incompetence and bad obstetric history. Laparoscopic approach favors comparably with traditional laparotomy approach & should be integrated in clinical practice whenever possible⁽¹⁾. Preconceptional cerclage is more practical.

Advantages of this procedure are less morbidity, faster recovery, being anatomically more accurate, no foreign body in vagina which can act as nidus for infection, reduced incidence of premature rupture of membranes, being possible in patients with cervicovaginal fistulas, less incidence of slippage and adhesions. Firm nature of non-pregnant cervix helps surgeon to avoid injury to adjacent vessels.

The disadvantages being, laparoscopy is a major procedure as compared to vaginal cerclage, also one needs a caesarean section after cerclage. Failure of laparoscopic cerclage & chorioamnionitis occurred more often when placed during pregnancy. But timing of cerclage does not influence the gestational age at delivery.

Most comprehensive systematic review of literature by Burger & coworkers⁽¹⁾ compared 135 laparoscopy procedures with 1116 transabdominal cerclage procedures. They concluded that Interval laparoscopy approach better than one performed during

pregnancy. Alex ades⁽²⁾ in one of the most recent studies (April 15) found, the perinatal survival was 95.8% with mean gestational age at delivery of 35.8wks, 83% women delivered >34 wks gestation. He has performed 150 laparoscopic cerclage procedures, 12 done during pregnancy, 138 before pregnancy, most pregnancies were uneventful. In study by Lu luo, Shugin chen(3), they compared laparoscopic vs vaginal cerclage & observed that, Fetal salvage rate was 92.3% & no adverse effects were encountered. Mean gestational age in laparoscopy group was 36.4 wks & it was 17.4 wks longer than their previous pregnancy age, significantly higher than obtained by vaginal cerclage. Reported complications include uterine vessel injury (5%); & small bowel injury (9%) in various studies.(4) In addition to intraoperative complications, women with transabdominal encerclage may require cesarean delivery and may potentially require hysterotomy if miscarriage or fetal demise occurs.(5)

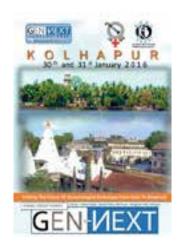
Vaginal cerclage is being done for those at risk of preterm labour or in those with short cervix on USG, but there are various theories and supportive studies, indicating its role in only selective group of patients and not in all. The laparoscopic preconceptional cerclage holds promise for patients of cervical incompetence, esp. when vaginal cerclage fails to prolong pregnancy. Skilled surgeon and right selection of patients is the key to this novel procedure. However NICE guidelines (2007) "The specialist advises considered this procedure to be novel and expressed uncertainty about its efficacy.(4)

We need controlled trials for this surgery to support its role in large no. of patients before coming to definitive conclusion, but it is surely a promising step in this era of keyhole surgeries.

KEYWORDS:

Cervical, abortion, incompetence, laparoscopic ,cerclage

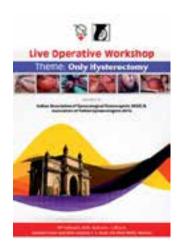




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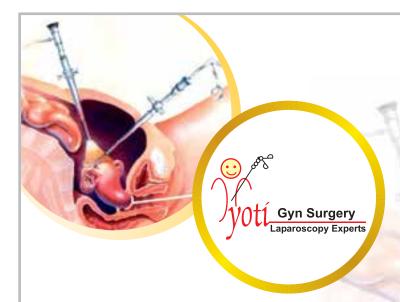
a report



IAGE in association with Kolhapur Obstetric and Gynecological Society (KOGS) organised a mega event "GEN NEXT CONCLAVE 2016" under the leadership of Dr Vidya Thakar, President KOGS and Dr Anagha Kulkarni., Secretary General KOGS. Two day event was held at Kolhapur on January 30-31, 2016 at Hotel Sayaji. On January 30, 2016 a live operative endoscopy workshop was conducted at Apple Saraswati Hospital whereby eminent faculties such as Dr. Rajendra Sankpal, Dr Hafeez Rehman, Dr Sandesh Kade, Dr Nozer Sheriar, demonstrated and taught more than 16 live surgeries including variety of TLHs, Myomectomy, neovagina creation, laparoscopic abdominal cervical encirclage, conservative surgery for prolapse uterus, TCRE, TOT for stress Urinary Incontinence, etc. On evening of January 30 conference was inaugurated by Chief guest Hon. MLA Kolhapur Satej Patil, Dr. Rajendra Sankpal, On January 31. Scientific committee chaired by Dr Vidya Thakar put all their efforts to cover the wide variety of topics. Total 256 delegates attended the conference and enlightened themselves from the galaxy of the speakers who presented their subject precisely.

"Only Hysterectomy": Live Operative Workshop: IAGE & AFG Event, February 14, 2016, Mumbai

On February 14, IAGE organised a live operative workshop on "Only Hysterectomy" in association with Association of Fellow Gynecologists. Workshop was conducted at Nanavati Super speciality hospital, Mumbai. Dr. Rajendra Sankpal President IAGE, Dr Mohan Gadam, President AFG, Dr Rajendra Saraogi, Dr Rishma Pai, Dr Manohar Motwani were part of the managing committee of this workshop. Chief guest Dr C.N. Purandare, President FIGO inaugurated the workshop. Various technics of hysterectomy including Laparoscopic hysterectomy, minimally invasive technic mini laparotomy hysterectomy, NDVH, Vaginal hysterectomy for prolapsed uterus, sacrospinous fixation of vaginal vault were demonstrated by eminent faculties such as Dr Shirish Sheth, Dr Rajendra Saraogi, Dr Prashant Mangeshikar, Dr. Rajendra Sankpal, Dr Mohan Gadam & Dr Rakesh Sinha. Delegates were satisfied with lots of practical take home messages and tips to incorporate into their day to day practice.









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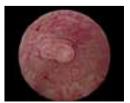
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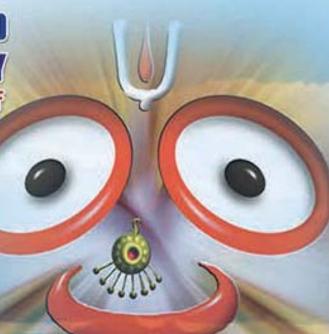






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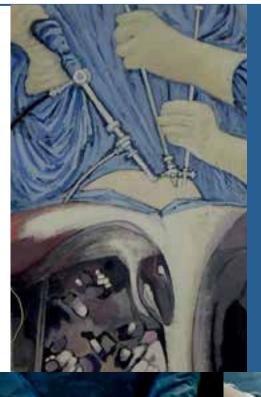
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