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Is Laparoscopic Suture Rectopexy A Simple Answer To The Problem Of Complete Prolapsed Rectum?

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OBJECTIVES

Rectal prolapse usually occurs in persons at the extremes of life. The two types of presentations are a complete or full thickness involvement of the bowel and a partial or incomplete type involving prolapse of the mucosa only. The symptoms comprises of anal incontinence, constipation and protrusion. The mortality of laparoscopic rectopexy ranges from 0%-30% with recurrence rates ranging from 0% to 10% in follow-up between 8 to 30 months. Whatever could be done safely by open surgery, can be replicated by laparoscopic surgery. Hence the need of the hour is to define an operative procedure that can be done laparoscopically with comparable results as regards recurrence, improvement in incontinence and constipation.

METHODOLOGY

36 patients of complete prolapse rectum underwent laparoscopic suture rectopexy between Apr 2006 to May 2008 to validate the efficacy of the procedure as the treatment modality of choice. Data was prospectively collected and analysed. The pre and post operative course of each patient was followed up with attention paid to ano-rectal manometry pressures, first bowel movement, hospital stay, duration of surgery, faecal incontinence, constipation, recurrence and morbidity. Mean follow up period was 12 months (range 1-24 months)

RESULTS

Post operative evaluation of patients showed that 16 of the 20 incontinent(80%), 9 of the 15 constipated(60%) improved after surgery. There was only one case of recurrence of prolapsed. There was no significant post operative complication.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Laparoscopic suture rectopexy is a safe procedure for the problem of complete prolapse rectum when compared to other prevalent techniques.