

Virtue male sling – Is it really an adjustable sling?

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The authors should be commended on their addition to the relatively small body of outcomes literature for the Virtue male sling. They performed a retrospective review of Virtue sling placement in 46 men with post-prostatectomy stress urinary incontinence with relatively short follow up (15.6 months). Success, defined as postoperative leakage of more than one pad-per-day, was achieved in 78% of men at final follow up. Predictors of success include ability to stop urine flow mid-stream as well as lack of prior radiation.¹

While this short-term outcome is similar to published data on the AdVance male sling, there are a few important considerations to note regarding this evaluation of outcomes.²⁻⁴

First, success in this analysis included the substantial number of patients (13%) with persistent leakage after the initial sling placement who underwent revision surgery. In most series other than for an adjustable sling, redo surgery would be considered a sling failure rather than a success, making outcomes comparisons based on this dataset difficult. The second important

consideration is the 11% of patients with penile numbness following surgery which a required revision procedure. Scrotal pain and/or numbness can be a complication following AdVance sling surgery, but rarely if ever requires surgical revision.⁵ This would suggest that either the larger body of this mesh places more pressure on the pudendal nerves or the sling requires a tighter placement to be effective and thus more pressure on the nerves. This deserves further study with the aim to reduce this complication going forward. □

References

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