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.

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. 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. 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.

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References