A new titanium-covered transobturator tape for surgical treatment of stress urinary incontinence

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Objectives: To assess the long-term satisfaction, cure rate and safety of a new titaniumcovered transobturator tape for the treatment of stress urinary incontinence (SUI). **Methods:** A prospective study was conducted with 151 patients. A total of 70 patients underwent transobturator sling surgery with titanium tape (TG) from 2011 to 2019, and a historical control group (CG) of 81 patients were treated with a noncoated tape and underwent incontinence surgery from 1999 to 2009. We compared patient-reported outcome measures with the incontinence outcome questionnaire.

Results: A statistically significant shorter time of recovery (p=0.02), improvement of sex life (p=0.01) and less common voiding dysfunction (p=0.01) were observed in the TG. Objectively, no postoperative urinary retention was observed in the TG, but four cases were described in the CG. Ten patients needed a reoperation for SUI in the CG compared to 3 in the TG (p = 0.03).

Conclusion: The titanium-covered transobturator sling was superior in length of recovery, improved sexual function and reduced reoperation rate, compared to a historical polypropylene group.

Jury: Prof. Anis Feki (thesis supervisor) Prof. Patrice Mathevet (external co-examiner) Prof. Stephane Cook (internal co-examiner) Prof. Gregor Rainer (president of the jury)