

The learning curve in laparoscopic inguinal hernia repair by TAPP – single center study

Marcin Zawadzki¹, Wojciech Hap¹, Krzysztof Kurnol¹, Krzysztof Kotulski¹, Wojciech Kielan¹

¹ II Katedra i Klinika Chirurgii Ogólnej i Chirurgii Onkologicznej, Uniwersytet Medyczny we Wrocławiu, kierownik: prof. dr hab. Wojciech Kielan

INTRODUCTION

First laparoscopic inguinal hernia repair was described by Ger et al. in 1990. Since that time, laparoscopic inguinal hernia repair has become more and more popular. To the main advantage of this procedure we can include less postoperative pain and shorter period of convalescence. In turn, the main disadvantage is quite long learning curve leading to achieving surgical proficiency, reaching often more than 50 cases, which is much longer comparing with conventional Lichtenstein technique. In some papers, there`s underline the comparable efficiency of both procedures.

DISCUSSION

We analyzed the group of patients operated by TAPP technique (Transabdominal Preperitoneal) from 2017 to 2018 in Department of General and Oncological Surgery in Wrocław. The analysis covered the duration of surgical procedure and general anesthesia (of uni- and bilateral hernia), length of stay, hernia recurrence and the influence on surgical skills in other laparoscopic procedures. All procedures were done by mesh fixation and peritoneal flap closure with manual suturing without using tacks. According to the results, the medium time of surgery of 50 minutes for unilateral hernia has been achieved after 20 procedures. The medium time of anesthesia after the reaching of the learning curve was 75 minutes. The length of stay was 2,2 day for all patients excluding day of admission. The hernia recurrence appeared in 1 patient 14 months after surgery. Moreover, in authors` opinion, the improvement in laparoscopic suturing skill reached during TAPP hernia repair, facilitates performing of more advanced laparoscopic procedures such as Nissen fundoplication or intracorporeal anastomosis during colorectal surgery.

CONCLUSIONS

Despite the necessity of performing the large number of TAPP procedures for beating the learning curve, the mastery in such technique seems valuable because of 2 main reasons. Most of all, it leads to the improvement of patients` postoperative welfare. Secondly, it`s an excellent possibility to improving one`s laparoscopic suturing skills, which is the key for performing more advanced laparoscopic procedures.

Kategoria: K2. Wyzwania chirurgii XXI wieku – możliwości i ograniczenia / Operacje z wykorzystaniem technik minimalnie inwazyjnych / Twenty-first century surgery challenges – possibilities and limitations / Operations using minimally invasive techniques