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WOMEN'S PREFERENCE FOR COSMESIS OF INCISIONS USED FOR OPEN VERSUS ROBOTIC LOWER URINARY TRACT RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY

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BACKGROUND:

Robotic-assisted laparoscopic surgery has dramatically altered the landscape of urological surgery. Robotic-assisted laparoscopic prostatectomy has become a mainstream procedure with proven benefits of reduced post-operative pain and blood loss, compared to an open approach.

OBJECTIVE:

This study was primarily done to compare the cosmetic appeal of incisions used for open versus robotic-assisted laparoscopic lower urinary tract reconstructive surgery in women.

METHODS:

A brief survey (descriptive) was administered to women in outpatient clinic of Western General Hospital, Edinburgh. All patients were provided illustrations of A) Pfannenstiel incision (incision at "bikini line"); B) Vertical midline laparotomy incision (incision from symphysis to umbilicus); C) Robotic-assisted laparoscopic incisions-variation I and D) Robotic-assisted laparoscopic incisions-variation II. Patients were asked to rate each incision on a visual analogue scale, based on its cosmetic appeal and in order of preference. Chi square distribution was used to compare mean previous surgeries and no previous surgeries between different preferred incisional groups and ages of the patients.

RESULTS:

One hundred patients with mean age were 53.11 ± 15.05 years with minimum 19 years and maximum 84 years and mean BMI was 28.18 ± 7.05 kg/m² with minimum 15.6 and maximum 55 kg/m². Out of 100 patients (1st preference of incision), 78% preferred incision A, 3% preferred B incision and 16% & 3% patients preferred incision C and D respectively. Similarly (2nd preference of incision) 3% patients preferred incision A, 19% preferred B incision and 56% & 22% patients preferred incision C and D respectively. The mean comparison between first preferred incision with second preferred incision with respect of surgeries (previous surgeries and no previous surgeries) showed significant difference $p \leq 0.05$ (chi value=167.692, $p=0.000$). Relation of preferred incisions with respect to ages of the patients showed no significant difference (Pearson relation value -0.182 and $p=0.069$).

CONCLUSION:

Overall open incisions was preferred over robotic incisions.

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