

SUCCESSFUL MANAGEMENT OF URETHRAL STRICTURE FOLLOWING HYPOSPADIAS REPAIR USING DORSAL FREE BUCCAL MUCOSA GRAFT URETHROPLASTY BY VENTRAL SAGITTAL URETHROTOMY APPROACH

Kishore Panjwani, Hari S. Asopa, Ravi Asopa, Jyoti Asopa

Introduction and Objective: Urethral stricture with or without fistula is a common late complication following hypospadias surgery. We describe a technique of dorsal free buccal mucosa graft urethroplasty for treatment of urethral strictures following hypospadias repair using ventral sagittal urethrotomy approach.

Methods: 14 patients ranging in ages from 2 to 35 years with urethral strictures following hypospadias repair were operated using dorsal free full thickness buccal mucosa graft in India and Australia. Urethra was opened in the midline over the stricture. After laying open the stricture, dorsal wall of the urethra was incised without mobilising it to expose the tunica albuginea for free buccal mucosa graft, urethra was tubularised in one stage with good results.

Results: 14 cases of post hypospadias repair anterior penile urethral strictures ranging from 2 to 6 cm were operated upon between January 2002 and March 2005 with followup from 6 to 38 months. Urethroscopy done in all cases showed good take up of the graft and urethrogram showed normal calibre urethra in all cases 7 to 8 weeks after surgery. One patient developed a fistula which healed spontaneously after further catheterisation for two weeks. One patient developed re-stricture at the proximal end of the graft which was treated by optical internal urethrotomy. Urethroscopy, calibrations and uroflowmetry done 6 to 38 months after surgery confirmed normal diameter of the urethra with a good flow.

Conclusions: Dorsal buccal mucosa free grafting in one stage for treatment of stricture following hypospadias repair is not only feasible but gives good results. Strictures associated with urethral fistulas can also be treated successfully by this technique. It is easy to perform as the urethra is not mobilised. Sizing of the graft is accurate and hence pooling of urine and semen is minimised.

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Contact information of Abstract Presenter:

Title: Dr.

Name: Jyoti

Surname: Asopa

Institution: Asopa Hospital & Research Centre

Address: Gailana Road, Off Bypass

Agra, INDIA

Tel.:

Fax.:

E-mail: jyotiasopa@hotmail.com