Laparoscopic posterior rectopexy for complete prolapse of rectum: Our experience

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Aim & Objective: Total rectal prolapse is a disorder that affects both sexes in all age groups causing debilitating symptoms along with constipation, incontinence or both and results in a poor quality of life. We present our experience of laparoscopic rectopexy for procidentia.

Methodology: 15 patients underwent laparoscopic rectopexy for complete rectal prolapse in our unit from January 2013 to January 2016. Preoperative and postoperative constipation, incontinence and quality of life scores have been followed up prospectively for a period of 18 months. Other outcomes measured were major and minor complications, length of hospital stay and recurrence.

Results: During the study period, 15 patients underwent laparoscopic rectopexy and the median age was 42 years (range, 18-72 years). There were no conversions to open procedure. Incontinence was present in all patients of which improvement was seen in 86.7%. Improvement in constipation was seen in 53% of the patients who had preoperative constipation. Retrograde ejaculation was seen in 2 patients in the 20-30 year age group. One patient recovered partially in 6 months and the other was lost to follow up. There were no incidences of recurrence in the median follow-up period of 18 months.

Conclusion: Laparoscopic rectopexy for rectal prolapse is associated with good post-operative outcome as far as incontinence and constipation is concerned. There is significant improvement in quality of life and associated with a low risk of recurrence. The risk of sexual complications in posterior rectopexy occurs among sexually active males and can be a major source of dissatisfaction.

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