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Comparative evaluation of sub-lay versus on-lay mesh repair for ventral hernia**Asif Ali Syed**

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Objective: To compare sub-lay and on-lay techniques of ventral hernia repair in terms of postoperative drain removal time and wound infection.

Methodology: This randomized controlled study was conducted from June to December 2016 at Jinnah Medical and Dental College Hospital, Karachi and comprised hernia patients who were divided into two equal groups A and B. The former were subjected to on-lay technique while the latter underwent sub-lay technique. Operative repair was performed at least 1 year after the index surgery, as this time was required for scar maturation. Data was analyzed using SPSS 23 and mean drain removal time between the groups was compared.

Results: There were 100 patients, with 50 (50%) in each of the two groups. Mean age of patients in group A was 40.30x4.52 years while in group B, it was 39.12x4.58 years. The mean drain removal time in group A was 4.40x1.53 days and in group B it was 3.06x0.23 days ($p=0.01$). The difference in terms of wound infection was also significant ($p=0.04$). Mean WHR at presentation was 0.84x0.06 and 0.78x0.05 in groups A and B respectively. Overall, 18 (18%) patients had hypertension, 8 (8%) had diabetes mellitus and 18 (18%) were obese. Besides, there were 28 (56%) females in group A and 27 (54%) in group B. Wound infection hit 14 (28%) patients in group A and 6 (12%) in group B ($p=0.04$). The mean drain removal time in group A was 4.40x1.53 days and 3.06x0.23 days in group B ($p=0.01$).

Conclusion: Sub-lay mesh repair in ventral hernia was found to be a better and effective technique. The overall postoperative complication rate was low in terms of drainage time and wound infection.

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