

OP-5 Chronic pain following mesh repair of inguinal hernia

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Introduction

The incidence of chronic pain (after 3-6 months) following hernia repair varies from 0.7-36.7%. It is reported to be higher in patients suffering from another painful condition.

Materials and method

Two hundred and eight consecutive patients who underwent mesh repair in our unit over a period of 28 months were sent a questionnaire regarding the presence of chronic pain or discomfort and their effect on quality of life (QOL). Data regarding any past painful condition also collected. Hundred (48%) patients responded.

Results

Range of follow up period was 4 - 32 months. Mean age was 46.2(range-16-78) years. Ninety four (94%) patients were males. Eighty four (84%) were open repairs (74 unilateral, 3 recurrent unilateral and 7 bilateral repairs)

and 16 (16%) were laparoscopic repairs (3 recurrent and 13 bilateral).

Of the patients who had open repairs 2 had severe pain 12 had mild - moderate pain and 13 had discomfort with a total of 27 (32%). Out of this 27 QOL was affected in 14(51.8%). Of the 16 laparoscopic repairs only 2(12.5%) had discomfort and QOL was not affected. 24(82.7%) out of 29 patients who had pain, suffered from another painful condition also.

Conclusions

1. Approximately, 30% of patients have chronic pain or discomfort following mesh repair (QOL is affected in half of them)
2. The majority of these patients suffered from another painful condition also.
3. Open repair has a higher incidence of pain than a laparoscopic repair.