



Discussion points:

Minimally invasive synthetic suburethral sling operations for stress urinary incontinence in women

Clinical considerations

- What do you think of the findings of the Cochrane review?
 - What are the advantages and disadvantages of using the women's reporting of cure (called the subjective cure rate in the review) compared to the clinician's reporting of cure (called the objective cure rate in the review), and vice versa?"
 - The authors of the review conclude that the cure rates for minimally invasive surgery and more traditional, open surgery are similar. Is this because the review does not contain enough data to detect an important difference or because there probably is very little or no difference?
 - The review was able to investigate effects in the short and medium term, but not the long term because of the duration of the trials. What would be the optimum length of follow-up to help inform choices between the procedures?
- How should this review influence decisions about treatment for a woman with stress urinary incontinence?
 - If a new procedure has similar cure rates to a type of operation that you currently perform, would you change your practice?
 - Should this review lead to a move away from any particular type of surgery or a move towards any particular type?
 - What interventions would you like to see compared next in a randomised trial, and what outcomes should be measured?
- Would other information help in making a decision about treating stress urinary incontinence?
 - Is there enough information from the randomised trials about quality of life, adverse effects or the costs of the different procedures?
 - Where might you get additional information on these?
 - What preferences would your patients have for the benefits and harms?
 - The Cochrane review includes more than 7000 women in 62 randomised trials, but these are spread across many different treatment comparisons. Did you find that this breadth of coverage was a help or a hindrance when considering the evidence?