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Predictors of postoperative antimuscarinics in women with mixed urinary incontinence after transobturator surgery

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Abstract

Introduction and hypothesis The study sought to identify the risk factors of postoperative use of antimuscarinics after transobturator surgery in women with mixed urinary incontinence (MUI) displaying both urodynamic stress urinary incontinence (SUI) and involuntary detrusor contraction (IDC) with leakage in urodynamic study.

Methods The clinical data of 103 patients with MUI who underwent transobturator tape (TOT) sling surgery were retrospectively reviewed. The patients were followed at least a year. To determine risk factors for postoperative use of antimuscarinics, variables of only those with P values < 0.05 on univariate analysis were included in the multivariate logistic regression analysis with forward stepwise building. Results Eight-four (81.6 %) of 103 patients were included in this study. The cure rate of urge urinary incontinence (UUI) was 69.0 % (58/84). Antimuscarinics were prescribed postoperatively in 22 (26.2 %) of 84 patients. Variables affecting postoperative use of antimuscarinics were age, parity, episode of any UUI, preoperative use of antimuscarinics, predominant urgency incontinence type, detrusor pressure at maximum flow, and Urogenital Distress Inventory 6. Increasing age and preoperative use of antimuscarinics increased the odds of postoperative use of antimuscarinics following TOT surgery.

Conclusion Patients who were older and had taken antimuscarinics preoperatively were significantly associated with postoperative use of antimuscarinics.

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D. Kim Department of Statistics, Sungkyunkwan University, Seoul, Korea **Keywords** Mixed urinary incontinence · Transobturator surgery · Postoperative antimuscarinics

Introduction

Mixed urinary incontinence (MUI) is therapeutically challenging due to the heterogenous nature of symptoms, signs, and urodynamic observations. Conditions such as urodynamic stress urinary incontinence (SUI) and urgency, or urodynamic SUI and detrusor overactivity (DO), or urodynamic SUI and involuntary detrusor contraction (IDC) with leakage are classified as MUI. There has been some evidence of persistent and good cure of the stress component following midurethral sling surgery in women with MUI [1, 2]. The cure rate of urgency or urge urinary incontinence (UUI) is variable, and the postoperative course of UUI can unpredictably resolve, persist, or worsen [3–7]. There is no consensus as to what patient or surgical factors contribute to the success of anti-incontinence procedures in resolving the urge or UUI component. Similarly, no consistent predictors of persistent urgency or UUI after midurethral sling surgery have been identified. The purpose of this study was to elucidate risk factors of postoperative use of antimuscarinics following midurethral sling surgery in patients with MUI whose urodynamic study showed both urodynamic SUI and IDC with leakage

Methods

This study assessed a retrospective cohort of 103 women who underwent transobturator (TOT) sling surgery (Monarc; American Medical Systems, Minnetonka, MN, USA) between April 2008 and August 2010. Preoperatively, all women underwent routine assessment, including gynecologic history, physical examination with Pelvic Organ



Prolapse Quantification (POP-Q) system, urinalysis, postvoid residual volume, uroflowmetry, and multichannel urodynamic evaluation. Patients also completed a Urinary Distress Inventory (UDI)-6 questionnaire. The terminology was consistent with the joint report of the International Urogynecological Association (IUGA)/International Continence Society (ICS) [8]. The methods and units used in the urodynamic study were followed to the standards recommended [9, 10].

In all patients, MUI was confirmed by urodynamic study, where the coexistence of SUI and UUI was demonstrated by leakage of urine with the Valsalva maneuver or cough in the absence of detrusor contraction, and involuntary urinary leakage combined with DO or secondary uninhibited detrusor contraction. The predominant type of MUI was determined by more severe and bothersome incontinence based on history, UDI-6, and urodynamic findings. Urgepredominant MUI was managed initially with pelvic floor muscle training (PFMT) and antimuscarinics. The stresspredominant MUI was managed with PFMT or surgery. Surgery was recommended for patients with urgepredominant MUI who did not respond to treatment with antimuscarinics after 8–12 weeks.

TOT sling surgery was performed in the standard manner, as previously described [11]. Under spinal anesthesia, helical needles were passed from a groin incision into the labiocrural folds at the superior medial border of the obturator foramen to the vagina incision beneath the midurethra under the guidance of the operator's ipsilateral index finger bilaterally. Intraoperative cystourethroscopy was routinely performed. Concomitant gynecologic surgery was done in 59.5 % of patients, posterior colporrhaphy in 29.8 %, uterosacral vaginal-vault suspension surgery in 8.3 %, laparoscopic hysterectomy in 7.1 %, laparoscopic adnexal surgery in 4.8 %, laparoscopic myomectomy in 2.4 %, open sacrocolpopexy in 2.4 %, and laparoscopic sacrocolpopexy in 2.4 %. Anterior and posterior colporrhaphy and vaginal hysterectomy were each done in 1.2 % of patients.

Postoperative evaluations were scheduled at 6 weeks, 6 months, 12 months, and annually thereafter. At follow-up, patients were evaluated using supine stress test, uro-flowmetry, and postvoid residual urine volume; completed the UDI-6 questionnaire; and were asked about the use of antimuscarinics following surgery [12]. Telephone interviews were attempted with women who missed follow-up. The subjective cure was assessed by UDI-6 scores and nonuse of postoperative antimuscarinics. Objective cure was assessed by no leakage on cough stress test.

Patients were divided into user and nonuser groups based on antimuscarinics after TOT surgery. Institutional review board approval was obtained prior to performing the chart review. Statistical analyses were done using SAS statistical software (SAS Institute, Cary, NC, USA) and R(version 2,2,0). Chi-square tests and independent *t* tests were used to

compare baseline characteristics and parameters of the postoperative use/nonuse of antimuscarinics. To determine the possible affecting factors for postoperative use of antimuscarinics after TOT surgery, variables of only those with *P* values <0.05 on univariate analysis were included in the multivariate logistic model. The multivariate logistic regression analysis with a forward stepwise building of an optimal model for prediction was built up for maximum likelihood estimates of the odds ratio (OR) and 95 % confidence intervals (CIs).

Results

Eighty-four (81.6 %) of 103 women were followed up at 12 months after surgery. Nineteen patients who missed follow-up could not be contacted because of death (n=1) and change of telephone number (n=18). Baseline characteristics and parameters of the 84 patients are summarized in Table 1. All women expressed bothersome urgency, and 61.3 % of women had experienced episodes of UUI. All patients showed both SUI and IDC with leakage in the urodynamic study. Preoperatively, antimuscarinics were prescribed in 20 (24 %) of the 84 women. The median postoperative follow-up was 23 (range 12–40) months.

The objective and subjective cure rate for SUI was 96.4 % (81 of 84) and 86.9 % (73 of 84), respectively. The cure rate of UUI was 69.0 % (58 of 84). The scores of UDI-6 significantly improved postoperatively from 55.4 to 11.8 (p<0.01). The proportion of postoperative non-use of antimuscarinics was 73.8 %. Among women who reported any UUI after surgery, 22 (84.6 %) of 26 had taken antimuscarinics postoperatively. They started to take antimuscarinics from as early as 1 month to 6 months following surgery. The reasons the remaining four women who did not take antimuscarinics were that the bladder problem would be solved by frequent voiding (n=2), did not like taking any medications (n=1) and no reasons reported (n=1). Eleven (55 %) of 20 women who had taken antimuscarinics preoperatively did not take antimuscarinics after surgery.

Table 2 shows the characteristics and parameters of the user or nonuser of postoperative antimuscarinics groups. The proportion of those who took antimuscarinics postoperatively was 26.2 % (22 of 84). Women who took postoperative antimuscarinics were older and showed more predominant UUI type. Their parity was higher, and they displayed a higher detrusor pressure at maximum flow. They were more likely to complain of bothersome daytime frequency and nocturia and had higher UDI-6 scores; however, these differences were not statistically significant. They were more likely to complain of any UUI (89.5 % vs 41.1 %, p=0.001) and take antimuscarinics preoperatively (40.9 % vs 18.0 %, p=0.043).

Variables affecting postoperative use of antimuscarinics were examined using multivariate logistic regression



Table 1 Patient characteristics and parameters at baseline

	Mean, range	Proportion (%)
Age (years)	53.5, 35–80	
Parity	2.5, 1–7	
BMI (body mass index) (kg/m²)	24.7, 19.7–34.8	
Menopausal women		39/84 (46.4)
Medical disease		23/84 (27.4)
Previous hysterectomy		4/83 (4.8)
Previous operation of urinary incontinence		4/83 (4.8)
Use of hormone therapy		6/84 (7.1)
History of urinary incontinence ≥6 years		52/75 (69.3)
Daytime frequency ≥6		61/77 (81.3)
Nighttime frequency ≥2		43/74 (58.1)
Any urge urinary incontinence		46/75 (61.3)
Use of preoperative antimuscarinics		20/83 (24.1)
Urinary Distress Inventory-6 score	55.4,16.7–100	
Aa	-1.2, -3 to 1	
Ba	-0.5, -3 to 4.5	
C	-4.7, -8 to 7	
Вр	-1.6, -3 to 2	
Maximum cystometric capacity, ml	469.1, 190-712	
Valsalva leak-point pressure, cm H ₂ O	71.8, 19–158	
Maximal urethral closure pressure, cm H ₂ O	32.8, 15–56	
Maximum flow rate, ml/s	27.5, 16–65	
Mean flow rate, ml/s	14.3, 10–26	
Detrusor pressure at maximum flow rate (P _{det} Q _{max}), cm H ₂ 0	23.8, 6–48	50/94 (50.5)
Concomitant surgery		50/84 (59.5)

Aa point of anterior vaginal wall from hymen

Ba point of most dependent portion of rest of anterior vaginal wall C point of cervix or vaginal cuff

Bp point of most dependent portion of rest of posterior vaginal wall

analysis with a forward stepwise building of an optimal model for prediction: age, parity, episode of any UUI, preoperative use of antimuscarinics, predominant UUI type, detrusor pressure at maximum flow, and UDI-6 scores. Table 3 shows the results of the independent risk factors for users of postoperative antimuscarinics. Older age and preoperative use of antimuscarinics increased the odds of postoperative antimuscarinic use following TOT (OR:1.08, p=0.0043 and OR:3.938, p=0.0206, respectively).

Discussions

MUI remains a complex clinical condition representing diverse groups with symptom- and urodynamics-based

diagnosis. The variances in the definition and outcome measures of MUI contributed to the wide variation of cure rate of urinary incontinence following surgery in MUI. In this study, we selected cases whose urodynamic study showed both stress and IDC with leakage. The validated UDI-6 questionnaire and postoperative use of antimuscarinics were used as outcome measures with a minimum follow-up of 12 months instead of objective parameters of UUI, such as urodynamic study or voiding diary. UDI-6 questionnaire is a relevant way to assess patient perception of incontinence severity in women with MUI [13]. Limitations of our study are retrospective design and relatively short-term follow-up.

The cure rate of SUI and UUI following surgery has been reported to be 83–97 % and 40–85 %, respectively [2, 14–16]. Our study revealed that the objective and subjective cure rate for SUI was 96.4 % and 86.9 %, respectively. The cure rate of UUI was 69 % and the proportion of nonuse of postoperative antimuscarinics was 73.8 %. Two patients (2.4 %) showed aggravation of urgency or UUI after surgery. In a prospective study of midurethral retropubic sling surgery [transvaginal tape (TVT)] with follow-up of 4 years where coexistence of stress and IDC with leakage was confirmed urodynamically, a higher cure rate of both SUI and UUI (85 %) was shown, and treatment failure rate was 11 % [3]. Of the cured or improved group, 25 % had urgency without incontinence. Contrary to this, Duckett et al. reported a higher cure rate of SUI (97 %) and lower cure rate of UUI (30 %) in a prospective study of 77 women who showed urodynamically proven MUI after TVT [16]. A retrospective study demonstrated a 44 % resolution rate of UUI in 457 women with urodynamically proven MUI after transvaginal sling surgery. The only predictor of persistent UUI was sling type (OR: TOT 1.00, bladder-neck sling 4.06, SPARC 2.25, TVT 1.77; p < 0.001) [17]. In a symptomatic MUI group, the resolution rate of urgency or UUI was not consistent according to the type of midurethral sling surgery. Botros et al. reported a significantly higher deterioration rate of preoperative UUI (14-16 %) after midurethral retropubic sling surgery, such as TVT or SPARC, compared with 6 % after TOT [6]. However, Shierlitz et al. showed that the rate of resolution and new development of overactive bladder symptoms were not significantly different between TVT and TOT [18]. To date, there is a lack of controlled studies showing whether type of midurethral sling surgery predicts persistent urgency/UUI.

We also tried to elucidate specific urodynamic parameters associated with an increased risk for postoperative use of antimuscarinics. Women showing lower maximum cystometric capacity and higher detrusor pressure at maximum urinary flow were more likely to be postoperative users of antimuscarinics. However, these differences disappeared in multivariate analysis. The postoperative use of antimuscarinics tended to be associated with predominant UUI type, bothersome daytime frequency, nocturia, more episodes of UUI, higher UDI-6 score, and more relaxed



Table 2 Variables in relation to postoperative antimuscarinics use after transobturator sling surgery

	User of postoperative antimuscarinics		Nonuser of postoperative antimuscarinics		P value
	Mean, SD	Proportion	Mean, SD	Proportion	
Age	58.7, 9.7		51.6, 9.9		0.004
Parity	3.0, 1.4		2.4, 1.0		0.027
Body mass index (kg/m ²)	25.6, 3.2		24.3, 3.2		0.144
Menopause		13/22 (59.1 %)		26/62 (41.9 %)	0.215
Medical disease		6/22 (27.3 %)		17/62 (27.4 %)	1.000
Previous hysterectomy		0/22		4/61 (6.6 %)	0.569
Previous urinary incontinence operation		1/22 (4.5 %)		3/59 (5.1 %)	0.538
Use of hormone therapy		2/22 (9.1 %)		4/62 (6.5 %)	0.650
Long history of urinary incontinence ≥6 years		12/19 (63.2 %)		40/56 (71.4 %)	0.247
Daytime frequency≥6		18/19 (94.7 %)		43/58 (74.1 %)	0.650
Nighttime frequency≥2		14/19 (73.7 %)		29/55 (52.7 %)	0.177
Any urge urinary incontinence (UUI)		17/19 (89.5 %)		29/56 (51.8 %)	0.001
Use of preoperative antimuscarines		9/22 (40.9 %)		11/61 (18.0 %)	0.043
Urinary Distress inventory (UDI)-6 score	71.1, 26.8		50.3, 28.7		0.056
Aa	-0.6, 2.3		-1.4, 1.4		0.123
Ba	0.4, 2.3		-0.6, 2.0		0.107
C	-3.8, 4.1		-5.1, 3.1		0.227
Вр	-1.0, 1.7		-1.8, 1.7		0.123
Predominant UUI type		17/22 (77.3 %)		26/62 (41.9 %)	0.006
Maximum cystometric capacity, ml	430.6, 118.8		482.7, 111.2		0.054
Valsalva leak-point pressure, cm H ₂ O	70.7, 20.8		72.3, 29.5		0.818
Maximal urethral closure pressure, cm H ₂ O	32.6, 15.6		33.9. 12.8		0.678
Maximum flow rate, ml/s	28.9, 13.7		27.0, 9.7		0.498
Mean flow rate, ml/s	14.9, 8.5		14.1, 5.5		0.617
Opening detrusor pressure, cm H ₂ O	15.9, 11.3		17.9, 9.4		0.529
Detrusor pressure at maximum flow rate (P _{det} Q _{max}), cm H ₂ O	30.1, 19.4		21.8, 11.6		0.024
C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C	15/02 (60.2.0/)		25/62 (56 5.00)		0.450

SD standard deviation

Aa point of anterior vaginal wall from hymen

Ba point of most dependent portion of rest of anterior vaginal wall

C point of cervix or vaginal cuff Bp point of most dependent portion of rest of posterior vaginal wall

vaginal wall. These differences also disappeared in the multivariate analysis. In some studies, low maximal urethral closure pressure, lower maximum cystometric capacity, or high-

Concomitant surgery

15/22 (68.2 %)

Table 3 Multvariate analysis independent risk factors for postoperative use of antimuscarinics after transobturator surgery

	Odds ratio	95 % confidence interval	P value
Age	1.08	1.024, 1.136	0.0043
Preoperative use of antimuscarinics	3.94	1.234, 12.566	0.0206

pressure motor UUI have been reported to be associated with persistent UUI in women with MUI [17, 19, 20]. No consistent urodynamic parameters or preoperative risk factors predicting persistent urgency/UUI have been identified in women with MUI following surgery

35/62 (56.5 %)

0.450

Our study showed that 55 % of women who had taken antimuscarinics preoperatively did not take antimuscarinics after surgery, and the proportion of postoperative users of antimuscarinics was 26.2 %. Segal et al. reported that 57.7 % of those who used antimuscarinics preoperatively no longer took antimuscarinics after TVT surgery in a retrospective study of 98 women with urodynamic SUI,



symptomatic UUI, and overactive bladder [5]. Our results concerning discontinuation or postoperative use of antimuscarinics may be clinically helpful and can be used in preoperative counseling of patients with MUI who need to surgery. Our multivariate analysis showed that age and preoperative use of antimuscarinics in women with urodynamically proven MUI undergoing TOT sling surgery were independent risk factors for postoperative use of antimuscarinics. This was not different from our expectation. SUI and UUI may be not independent but could be a pathophysiologically linked condition associated with bladder control problems [21, 22]. With advancing age, these changes are evident from epidemiologic and clinical evidence [23-25]. Significant improvement of UUI in women with MUI treated with surgery may suggest that the UUI component of MUI comes from a severe and advanced stage of SUI. The condition of poor pelvic floor support, incompetent bladder neck, and urethral hypermobility in cases of severe SUI could allow urine to be forced into the proximal urethra during physical activity, causing urethrodetrusor facilitative reflexes and triggering an IDC with leakage [21, 22, 26]. The stabilized and competent urethra with anti-incontinence surgery can correct both SUI and UUI. Patients who used antimuscarinics preoperatively would be more likely to be in the predominant UUI group and if they have ever experienced resolution of overactive symptoms with antimuscarinics and would be willing to add medications following surgery. Further prospective studies with longer followup are necessary to explore the risk factors predicting either resolution or persistence of urgency/UUI in women with urodynamically proven MUI following midurethral sling surgery.

Conclusion

The incidence of postoperative use of antimuscarinics was 26.2 % in women with MUI defined as coexistence of SUI and IDC with leakage by urodynamic study after TOT at 1-year follow-up. Those who were older and had used antimuscarinics preoperatively were significantly associated with postoperative use of antimuscarinics.

Conflicts of interest None.

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