

Shifting the Goalpost in Ventral Hernia Care: 5-year Outcomes after Ventral Hernia Repair with Poly-4-hydroxybutyrate Mesh

Article Summary

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Objectives

Ventral hernia repair (VHR) can be augmented with biosynthetic poly-4-hydroxybutyrate mesh (P4HB). Long-term outcomes, including quality of life outcomes, after VHR with P4HB mesh are not well established. This study sought to assess these outcomes 5 years after repair.

Subjects and methods

Patients who received VHR using P4HB by the senior author between January 2015 and September 2017 were retrospectively identified. Patients were prospectively interviewed for quality-of-life assessment using the Hernia-Related Quality-of-Life Survey (HerQLes) and Abdominal Hernia-Q (AHQ) and screened for recurrence. Those who screened positive were asked to follow up in the clinic to confirm recurrence. Both 5-year quality of life and recurrence were univariately assessed with patient and operative factors.

Results

51 patients met inclusion criteria. 43 patients completed 5-year quality of life assessment (84.3% response rate). Quality of life scores at all postoperative time periods were greater than preoperative scores. Further, quality of life at 5 years was greater than that assessed 0-2 years following VHR. Thirty-five patients had clinical follow-up in the 5-year time period, 7 experienced recurrences (20% recurrence rate). There was no difference in 5-year quality of life assessment between those who had a recurrence and those who did not.

Conclusion

Patient quality of life following VHR with P4HB improves immediately and continues to improve 5 years following repair. There are no differences in quality of life with onset of recurrence. Quality of life should be the primary outcome of success in VHR.

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