Comparison of Vaginal Cuff Closure Outcomes in Patients Having Robotic-assisted Total Laparoscopic Hysterectomy: V-Loc vs. Vicryl (Poster)

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The purpose of this study is to determine if the use of V-Loc suture for vaginal cuff closure following robotic-assisted total laparoscopic hysterectomy decreased the incidence of vaginal cuff dehiscence compared to Vicryl suture.

**Objective:**

The purpose of this study is to determine if the use of V-Loc suture for vaginal cuff closure following robotic-assisted total laparoscopic hysterectomy decreased the incidence of vaginal cuff dehiscence compared to Vicryl suture.

**Methods:**

All patients who had completed robotic-assisted laparoscopic hysterectomy from 6/1/2008 to 12/31/2011 were identified through the institution’s database. Those patients who underwent vaginal closure with 2-0 V-Loc (unidirectional barbed suture) were retrospectively compared to the cohort that underwent vaginal cuff closure with 0-Vicryl (synthetic braided suture). Exclusion criteria included use of suture material other than 0-Vicryl or 2-0 V-Loc. The primary outcome measure was vaginal cuff dehiscence. Fisher’s exact test was used for data analysis.

**Results:**

Seven hundred thirty-two patients (328 in the 2-0 V-Loc group and 404 in the 0-Vicryl group) were analyzed. The incidence rate of vaginal cuff dehiscence among those with V-Loc suture was 0% (n=0/328), while it was 0.82% (n=6/404) among those with Vicryl suture (p=0.03568). There was no correlation identified between vaginal cuff dehiscence and type of uterine manipulator used, body mass index, smoking habits, uterine size or estimated blood loss.

**Conclusion:**

- Dehiscence of the vaginal cuff after robotic-assisted total laparoscopic hysterectomy is a rare but important and serious complication in gynecologic surgery.
- The use of 2-0 V-loc unidirectional suture to close the vaginal cuff following robotic-assisted laparoscopic hysterectomy may eliminate the problem of vaginal cuff dehiscence.

**Key Concept:**

Novel Surgical Techniques

**Measurable Learning Objectives**

- To learn the incidence of vaginal cuff dehiscence following V-Loc and Vicryl suture.
- To identify a new technique for vaginal cuff closure using a unidirectional suture.

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