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Author

T.M.Malak

MB, BCh., M.Sc.,
Ph.D., DFFP,
MRCOG, FRCOG

Consultant
Eastbourne DGH

Tel: 01323 414816/
410717/ 410929
Fax: 01323 730313

Web address
For Professionals
MarkMalak.com

For Patients
MrMalak.com

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Reference

- * BJOG 2006;
113:26
- ** AJOG 2004;
190:602

Happy
New
Year

Tension-free Vaginal Tape operation (Obturator approach) - TVT_o

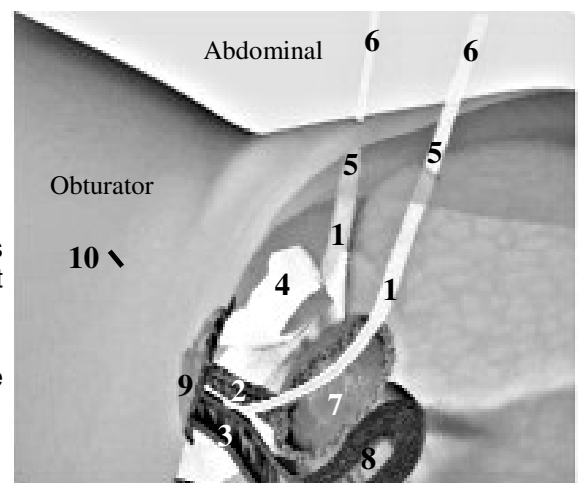
Surgical treatment for stress incontinence is indicated for cases with urodynamic proven genuine stress incontinence (GSI) when pelvic floor muscle exercises are not effective. GSI means that the cause of stress incontinence is weakness of the urethral closure mechanism

The Tension-free Vaginal Tape (TVT) has become the first choice surgical treatment for urinary incontinence in many women because its proven success* and being a minimal invasive day case technique. The Author introduced the TVT procedure to Eastbourne in 1998.

In general terms there are two ways of inserting a tension free tape under the urethra (see the diagram and the text)

The "Obturator" approach has been proven to be as effective as the "Abdominal" (retropubic) approach** but generally safer and quicker (10 versus 25 minutes). The retropubic space is normally obliterated with fibrosis and adhesions after previous continence surgery leading to major risks with future surgery. In the obturator approach the retropubic space is completely avoided which is a major advantage.

The Author 2nd audit (for 1st audit see Update issue 26) showed Complete Cure and improvement in 97% of cases with stress incontinence. The incidence of bladder injury, bleeding, erosion and long term catheterisation was 0%.



Procedure Principle: A synthetic tape ¹ is placed to form a hammock under the urethra to support it. The tape is inserted through a small incision in the vagina ³. In the abdominal (retropubic) approach the tape is passed behind the pubic bone ⁴ and then through the two 0.5 cm incisions in the skin ⁵ above the pubic bone and in pubic hair.

In the Obturator approach the tape passed through two 0.5 cm incisions in the upper thigh ¹⁰. The excess length of the tape ⁶ is cut and the ends are retracted away from the skin incisions which are closed with a special skin glue. 7: Bladder, 8: Uterus, 9: External genitalia

How does the TVT work? To stop the flow of running water in a hose, you put your foot down on the hose to apply pressure making it to collapse between the foot and the hard ground. If the ground is very muddy it will not support the hose and it will not collapse. The water flow will therefore continues. The urethra is similar to a hose with running water. The TVT tape provide a support to the urethra against which it collapses when coughing etc preventing the urine leakage.