

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Short-Term Results of a Prospective Observational Study of ULTRA PRO Plug (UPP) Repair for Primary Inguinal Hernias

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Abstract

Objective: The aim of this prospective study was to evaluate the postoperative pain after hernioplasty with an ULTRA PRO Plug (UPP), which is a new light weight/large pore mesh. We compared the pain with that in patients treated with heavy weight mesh using the Prolene Hernia System (PHS) around the same time at a single institution.

Materials & Methods: One hundred and three patients were treated with UPP or PHS. The postoperative pain (at rest/with movement) was assessed by means of a visual analogue scale (VAS) one day, one week, one month, six months and one year after surgery. This study was started in April 2009.

Result: Between April 2009 and November 2010, fifty-two patients underwent hernioplasty with UPP (group U), while fifty-one patients underwent treated with PHS (group P). There were no significant differences in the frequencies of complaints with respect to the postoperative pain, but fewer patients complained of postoperative pain in group U. The early postoperative pain assessed by the VAS was less in group U than group P. There was one case of recurrence in each of the groups.

Conclusion: UPP may be preferable to PHS for hernioplasty. However, larger randomized studies with a longer follow-up are needed to confirm our results.

Key words: ULTRA PRO Plug (UPP), Prolene Hernia System (PHS),
light weight mesh, heavy weight mesh, Visual Analogue Scale (VAS)