

Primary fascial closure of large abdominal incisional hernia is safe and effective.

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Abstract

An incisional hernia is usually a defect in the scar of an abdominal surgery . A 23-year-old African woman with a large incisional hernia was managed by the Jenkin's 'mass closure' suture repair technique with good outcome.

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Abstract: An incisional hernia is usually a defect in the scar of an abdominal surgery. A 23-year-old African woman with a large incisional hernia was managed by the Jenkin's 'mass closure' suture repair technique with good outcome.

Keywords : hernia, incisional, repair, fascial

Key Clinical Message

Primary fascia closure following its search realigns the rectus sheath and abdominal wall muscles under the physiological tension needed for optimal function. It uses a continuous non-absorbable 1-0 nylon suture of a 4-1 suture wound length ratio.

Clinical Image

A 23-year-old African woman with a large incisional hernia was managed by the Jenkin's 'mass closure' suture repair technique with good outcome (figures 1,2). Primary fascia closure following its search restores the linea alba (anterior and posterior rectus sheath) and realigns the rectus muscles, and places the abdominal wall muscles under the physiological tension needed for optimal function [1, 2]. The Jenkin's 'mass closure' technique uses a continuous non-absorbable 1-0 nylon suture of a 4-1 suture wound length ratio and in taking big bites of the fascia produces a concertina that creates minimal tension in the deep tissues especially when the wound is stretched in the early post-operative period as the patient coughs and the abdomen is distended [1]. Although the mesh repair of incisional hernia may give best result, the Jenkin's 'mass closure' technique will also allow a 'cement' nature of healing similar to mesh. In addition, a bridged repair in which a mesh spans the unclosed fascial defect of the hernia would result in poor function of the abdominal wall. The suture repair technique is known to have a high failure rate if primary fascial closure is not done [2].



Figure 1. Abdominal incisional hernia (mostly right-sided)



Figure 2. 2 weeks post open repair of incisional hernia

Declarations

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