

Two port laparoscopic trachelectomy without the use of ureteral stents

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Abstract

Trachelectomy is a notoriously difficult laparoscopic procedure, often because of remaining scar tissue from a prior supracervical hysterectomy, as well as the necessity to clear vital organs, including the bladder and the rectum, out of the plane of dissection in order to remove the cervix. Many authors have suggested techniques involving ureteral stents to minimize the chance of ureteral injury. Our institute presents this two-port laparoscopic technique without the use of stents, which we believe safely accomplishes the trachelectomy through very minimally invasive means.

Keywords: Trachelectomy, laparoscopy, single port, two port, robotic

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Introduction

Trachelectomy is a notoriously difficult laparoscopic procedure (1). The reasons for this include remaining scar tissue from a prior supracervical hysterectomy, as well as the necessity to clear vital organs, including the bladder and the rectum out of the plane of dissection in order to remove the cervix (2,3). Based on our review of the literature, many authors have discussed the use of novel techniques (4,5), ureteral stents (6,7), and uterine manipulators (5) for the purpose of performing trachelectomy (8). In this video we present our technique for laparoscopic, two-port trachelectomy, using a novel approach of vaginal tension on the cervix to complete the colpotomy.

Objective

To demonstrate a technique to perform a laparoscopic trachelectomy in the safest, most minimally invasive, cost effective way possible, without the use of ureteral stents (Video 1). We designed a surgical technique including several novel aspects. First, we began dissection on the cervical stump with a linear horizontal incision to maximize the distance from the bladder and rectum (Figure 1). Next, we used a technique of maintaining pressure against the vaginal cuff, deep within the abdomen, to move the ureters laterally, thus eliminating the need for ureteral stents. We overcame the obvious problem of keeping the cervix planted against the manipulator by the novel usage of a laparoscopic tenaculum, used to hold the cervix from the vaginal approach through the manipulator (Figure 2). Thus we were able to complete the circumferential colpotomy (Figure 3) with the cervix firmly held against the internal ring of the manipulator at all times.



This manuscript has been reviewed by the Institutional IRB Board at Marchand Institute and was found to be exempt from IRB review (July 2018).

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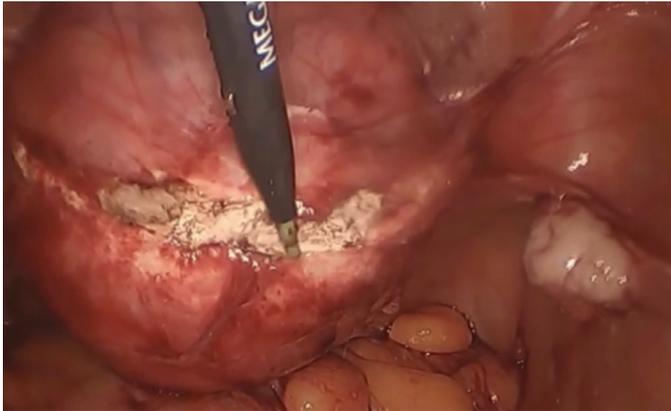


Figure 1. Initial dissection into the cervical stump is started in a linear pattern in order to maximize the distance from both the bladder and the rectum

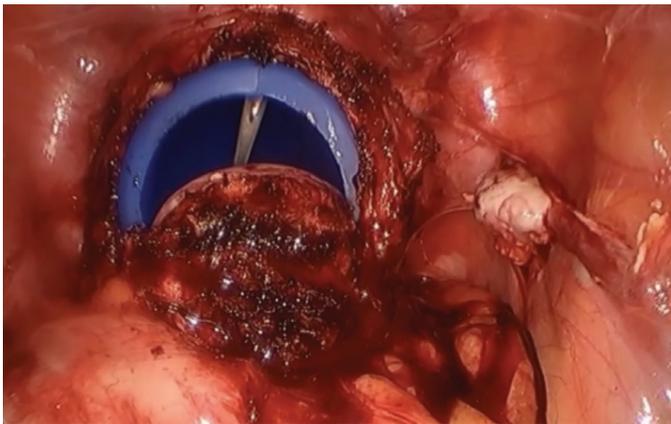


Figure 2. A 5 mm laparoscopic, sharp-tooth tenaculum is inserted vaginally in order to grasp the cervix and hold tension against the manipulator. This allows the manipulator to be pushed cephalad while completing the colpotomy. The resulting force pushed the ureters laterally, minimizing the risk of ureteral injury

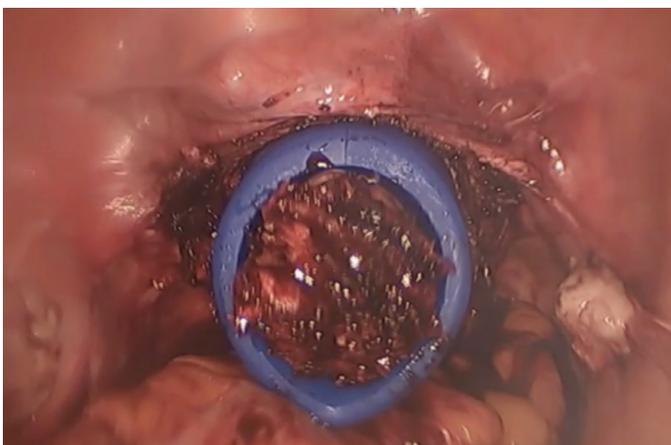


Figure 3. The colpotomy was completed and the cervix is free within the manipulator

Design

A narrated video demonstration of the surgical procedure (Canadian Task Force Classification III).

Setting

The setting was a suburban hospital in the United States.

Interventions

The patient was an obese, 46-year-old female with pain in the area of the cervix and vaginal bleeding 10 years after open supra-cervical hysterectomy. Two-port laparoscopic trachelectomy without ureteral stents was performed. Our novel technique was successful in completing the procedure without complications. We have explained the technique and instrumentation in this video, for reproducibility. The patient was discharged 26 hours after surgery and her recovery was uneventful.

Conclusion

This technique is a feasible, reproducible procedure for laparoscopic trachelectomy. Novel aspects of this technique may effectively eliminate the need for pre-operative ureteral stents in some cases.

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Video 1. *Fully narrated video demonstration of our described technique of two port laparoscopic trachelectomy without the need for ureteral stents*



<https://www.doi.org/10.4274/jtgga.galenos.2020.2020.0027.video1>

Commitment to Diversity: *The Marchand Institute remains committed to diversity and tolerance in its research, and actively maintains a workplace free of racism and sexism. Greater than half of the authors for this study are female and many represent diverse backgrounds and under-represented ethnic groups.*

Informed Consent: *Patient gave written consent for usage of video prior to and after procedure.*

Conflict of Interest: No conflict of interest was declared by the authors.

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