

LONG TERM OUTCOME OF THE BASCOM PROCEDURE FOR ADOLESCENT PILONIDAL SINUS

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Aim of Study: To assess the results of excision and primary off-midline closure (Bascom cleft lift) for chronic pilonidal sinus in adolescent patients.

Methods: 22 consecutive patients, who had the procedure during April 2009 – February 2016, were the study group. There were no exclusions. All were outpatient procedures, by one surgeon. Meticulous postoperative care, consisting of shaving and wound care, and was provided by a single physician assistant. Time to healing was defined as number of days from the first Bascom procedure to documentation of complete healing at the last office visit. Patients were contacted by telephone or email during September 2016 and completed a standard questionnaire. Our Institutional Review Board approved the study (#4401).

Main Results: There were 22 patients, 18 male and 4 female, median age 16 years (range 11-18). 17 (77%) were completely healed at median 27 days after surgery (range 9-268). 3 (14%), needed a second operation during follow up (1 redo Bascom, 1 debridement, 1 hematoma); all 3 healed at 301, 97 and 27 days respectively. Two patients (9%) failed and were not healed at last contact. Based on intention to treat, 20 of 22(91%) patients had documented complete healing at median 31 days after initial surgery (range 9-301).

15 of 22 (68%) patients completed the survey questionnaire. Time elapsed from surgery was a median of 44 months (range 7-85) for survey responders. All responders remain fully healed. None required another operation or visited another specialist. Two patients each had one episode of superficial breakdown of the scar, which resolved quickly. One was dissatisfied with the appearance of the scar.

Conclusions: Excision of pilonidal sinus disease by the Bascom procedure, combined with meticulous postoperative care, is an effective treatment in a majority of adolescent patients. There were no late recurrences in this survey.