

LAPAROSCOPIC PROTACK™ RECTOPEXY (LPR): EARLY EXPERIENCE OF THIS NOVEL TECHNIQUE FOR FULL THICKNESS RECTAL PROLAPSE (FTRP) IN CHILDREN

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Aim of the Study: To review our early experience of laparoscopic ProTack™ rectopexy (LPR) in the management of full thickness rectal prolapse to determine the effectiveness and potential complications for this novel technique in children.

Methods: Retrospective review of all patients undergoing LPR at our institution between 2013 and 2015. Full laparoscopic mobilisation of the rectum was performed from the sacral promontory to the pelvic floor. "Wings" of the lateral mesorectal peritoneum are left attached to the rectum, which are then fixed to the sacral promontory using Protack™. Demographics, associated conditions, previous procedures for rectal prolapse, concurrent procedures, follow up time, length of stay, recurrence, short and long term complications were recorded.

Results: 4 consecutive patients with FTRP underwent LPR. The mean age at procedure was 6 years (23 months - 10 years) with a male to female ratio of 3:1. Associated conditions were cystic fibrosis (1), anorectal malformation (VACTERL association) (1) and chronic idiopathic constipation (2). One patient had undergone unsuccessful sclerotherapy as it was not clear if their rectal prolapse was full thickness. One patient had concurrent gastrostomy insertion. All patients were discharged the following day. 3 patients were discharged on simple oral analgesia, one patient required the addition of gabapentin for pain control. No patient has had recurrence of their rectal prolapse, with a mean length of time since procedure of 684 days (395 - 857 days).

Conclusion: LPR shows promising results in children with FTRP; our early experience has demonstrated it to be a safe and effective procedure even in young children. It negates the risks associated with the use of mesh as well as the higher risk of failure reported with suture rectopexy. Although the majority require only simple analgesics, some may require additional pain medication.