Cesarean Section and Simultaneous Hernia Repair

Summary / Zusammenfassung
Hypothesis: Cesarean section (C-section) combined with inguinal or umbilical hernia repair during the same procedure remains controversial. Very few data document the outcome of this combined operation. We tested the hypothesis that the combined procedure is safe, efficient and well-accepted compared to C-section alone.

Design: Retrospective comparative study.

Setting: An university hospital providing tertiary care.

Patients: 8 patients with C-section combined with inguinal or umbilical hernia repair, 305 low-risk patients with C-section alone.

Main outcome measurements: Operation time, blood loss, opiate use, complications in childbirth, hospitalization time, hernia recurrence and patients' opinion about the combined procedure.

Results: Duration of the combined procedure was significantly increased for inguinal hernia, but not for umbilical hernia repair compared to the controls. No major complications were found, only 1 patient had a delayed wound healing without infection. Blood loss, opiate use and hospitalization time showed no significant difference compared to the controls. After a mean observation period of 56 months there were no hernia recurrences. Seven out of 8 patients would recommend the combined operation.

Conclusions: Based on a limited number of patients C-section and hernia repair performed during the same procedure seems to be safe, efficient and well-accepted by patients thus avoiding a second hospitalization for hernia repair. Provided larger series confirm these preliminary results, combined hernia repair and C-section may be recommended.

Publications / Publikationen

Project Leadership and Contacts / Projektleitung und Kontakte
Dr. med. N. Ochsenbein-Kölble (Project Leader) nicole.koelble@fhk.usz.ch
Prof. Dr. med. Roland Zimmermann (Project Leader) roland.zimmermann@fhk.usz.ch

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Department of Surgery, University Hospital, Zurich, Switzerland

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