

Sutureless Technique of Curvilinear Vulvoplasty of the Labia Minora

BACKGROUND

While surgery on the labia minora is one of the most sought after procedures on the female genitalia, it is also notoriously painful to recover from, and has a very unpredictable pattern of healing, leaving some patients displeased with the cosmetic result. In addition to the cosmetic benefit of reducing the labia minora that sometimes protrude from the labia majora, (giving a characteristic "roast beef" appearance,) abnormally redundant labia minora can also be pulled inside the vaginal canal during intercourse, resulting in pain and bleeding. Most techniques described for curvilinear vulvectomy to remove this tissue involve suturing or cautery to control bleeding, as this area of the anatomy tends to have a very redundant blood supply. The unfortunate consequence of these sutures and cautery is the aforementioned scarring that is often unpredictable and yields displeasing results. We sought out to describe a technique developed by surgeons and clinical researchers to perform the curvilinear vulvectomy more easily and without the use of sutures.

METHOD

Case report describing novel technique not previously described in the surgical literature.

RESULTS

We reviewed charts on five patients previously undergoing this technique for complications and blood loss, and attempted to describe the technique as succinctly and accurately as possible.

TECHNIQUE

1. The use of purposely cross-clamping a closed curved 8" "Kelly" clamp with two "Allis" forceps in order to maximize pressure and hemostasis in the area of dissection.
2. The use of Marcaine with epinephrine as the primary hemostasis agent in order to avoid the danger of tissue necrosis that could be present with the use of vasopressin.
3. The avoidance of cautery or suture in achieving hemostasis to minimize scarring.

Conclusions: In our limited experience, our technique seems to be an efficient and efficacious method of curvilinear vulvoplasty of the labia minora.

CONCLUSION

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