
Rectal prolapse

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• Rectal prolapse is a circumferential descent of the bowel with or without protrusion through the anus. It may be partial (Mucosal) or complete (Procidentia). The cause of the prolapse is often obscure • The mechanism that normally stabilizes the rectum is complex, and the importance of the pelvic floor in this process is not fully recognized. • The aetiological points upon which the many methods devised for its treatment are founded may be classified under 5 headings: 1- Inflammation of the mucous membrane. 2- Insufficiency of pelvic floor. 3- Insufficiency of natural support of the rectum. 4- The structure of Douglas-cul-de-sac. 5- Loss of muscular tone • 2 - Bleeding and discharge. 3 - Partial or complete faecal incontinence • The prolapse is liable to be complicated by 1 - Irreducibility and gangrene. 2 - Ulceration and haemorrhage. 3 - Rupture of the prolapse. • Management of rectal prolapse. General measures - It is essential to correct any existing pathologic process. Mechanical conditions which may aggravate the protrusion, - Constipation and diarrhea should be controlled • Diet should be regulated carefully. • Prevention: • Avoid prolonged sitting on toilet • Stool rendered soft by aperients • Improving sphincter tone. • Constitutional treatment: suitable tonics and good hygienic measures • Management of prolapse in children - The majority of cases of rectal prolapse in infancy recover spontaneously without treatment. - Recovery may be aided by: 1- submucosal injection of 5% phenol in almond oil or. 2- Alternatively in severe cases by means of a Thiersch, type of operation using catgut instead of silver wire. • In older children with more severe prolapse. linear cauterization is usually effective • If this should fail in an older child. rectopexy or excision would be indicated. • Abdominal operations are absolutely contraindicated. - Only very rarely it is necessary to perform rectosigmoidectomy for irreducible gangrenous prolapse. - In those cases of rectal prolapse that are complete or persistent, after infancy in association with lax sphincter there may be, either a congenital neurological defect of the J-negarectum type. 1- If attempts at operative correction in these patients without the most careful investigation and assessment are to be strongly deprecated and they are much better managed in special centres. • Management of procidentia in Adult and old patients. • Therapy varies according to the demands of patients as well as to the severity at the presentation. • They vary from conservative management to major operations with several modalities in between • However, operation is not indicated for so-called internal intussusception. Consequently, the therapy should be limited to patients without protrusion of the normal rectum through the anus. - Operations that attempt to repair the puborectalis muscle by simple suture have

been ineffective because the muscle is usually too attenuated. Fixation operations using a Teflon or mersilene graft sutured to the rectum and attached to the upper sacrum are popular now in United States. • A similar operation (Well's operation) is widely used now in Britain. While at times, sacral fixation is still it lacks the important objective of providing pelvic support. • Application of the puborectalis sling, provides better fixation and at the same time a feeling of pelvic support. • Summary of choice of therapy, - A - Poor risk elderly patients. The severely incapacitated very old person with a short life expectancy should usually be treated conservatively. • If the prolapse is too troublesome to manage, a Thiersch loop should be placed to constrict the anus so as to prevent prolapse. Or alternatively Delorme's operation can be used. B Acceptable risk elderly patients. Elderly patients who have a limited surgical risk and relatively short life expectancy can be treated effectively. There are multiple procedures that should be considered and the choice depends on the experience of the surgeon than any other factor. 1 - Ripstein operation is the most widely used now in the United States. 2 - Well's operation is the most widely used now in England. • Complications specific to these operations include obstruction, bleeding, infection, and desloughing of the graft. Fortunately, they are not common. J. Delorme's operation. 4° perineal rectopexy. C Good risk patients. • Adults in the younger age groups and even up to 60 years or more require the best possible reconstruction, one that will last for decades. • There are several choices depending more on the experience of the surgeon and somewhat less on the patient's characteristics. 1 - Ivalon, polyvinyl sponge (Wells operation) is the most widely used in Great Britain. 2 - The Teflon sling operation (Ripstein) is the most widely used in United States. ----- The irritant properties of polyvinyl alcohol sponge help to fix the rectum firmly but also predispose it to infection or rejection. The inert polypropylene mesh fixation, front of the rectum has been associated with acute kinking of the bowel or if too tight with intestinal obstruction. 3 - Marlex mesh abdominal rectopexy. Excellent results have been reported during the past 10 years. The monofilament knitted polypropylene (Marlex) mesh is inert and seems to be relatively free from infection. 4 - Repair of Rectal prolapse by using a puborectal sling procedure. Here, the graft, unfortunately, is not movable and it cannot lengthen to allow easier defecation. • Its advantage over sacral fixation is that it provides a much better feeling of pelvic support, and often improves bladder function. • This procedure can be used for treatment of procidentia with rectopexy. • This involves a series of horizontal nonabsorbable purse-string sutures placed between the posterior 1/3 of the circumference of the rectum and sacrum. The procedure seems to be effective and avoids the complications that have been reported with the Teflon sling and Ivalon sponge procedure. 6) Treatment by Graciloplasty may be an effective single procedure for the control of complete rectal prolapse. • It can be treated by 1 - injection of sclerosing solutions, 2 - Rubber band ligation, 3 - Ligation and excision, 4 - Oryx surgery. Operations for rectal prolapse either perineal, sacral or abdominal are infrequently liable to variable complications. • General complications include, pulmonary, cardiac complication, or pulmonary embolism, - Local complications include, Haemorrhage, infection, constipation and faecal impaction. Urinary retention, recurrence either partial or

complete, and incontinence,- Incontinence is managed better by postanal repair.- This' essay also gives information about special problems of rectal prolapse such as occult rectal prolapse, prolapse in cystic fibrosis, sigmoidorectal intussusception and the syndrome of the descending perineum.