Peritoneal closure in TAPP hernia repair

Laparoscopic repair of inguinal hernias has become a widely accepted technique due to the efficacy and safety of this approach. Transabdominal preperitoneal (TAPP) and total extraperitoneal (TEP) approaches are associated with peritoneal defects or tears. Nonclosure or insufficient closure of these defects can lead to bowel obstruction. This complication incidence ranges from 0.5-2.55% in the published literature. In the early postoperative period obstruction is mostly attributed to inadequate peritoneal closure and trocar site herniation. Late complication bowel obstructions may be due to adhesions to tacks, staples or the mesh. Peritoneal closure is one of the essential steps in TAPP hernia repair. The different closing procedures have various strengths and weaknesses. Commonly used closing devices are the Hernia Stapler, Absorbable Tacker, Spiral Tacker, Extracorporally knotted running suture and Clip guarded running suture. The Tacker fixation devices are easy to handle and account for a quick peritoneal closure. The Absorbable Tacker fixation devices have the advantage that the absorption of the tacks is essentially completed prior to one year. But improper tacker fixation can leave a loose tack in the abdominal cavity or a sharp protruding end of the spiral tack giving rise to complications. With the Hernia Stapler a quick peritoneal closure can also be performed with the disadvantage of nonabsorbable fixation elements. Staples and especially spiral tacks are reported to contribute to adhesion formation. The potential to eliminate knots in peritoneal closure, as well as tacking and stapling related complications is an interesting aspect of this wound closure device. I experienced many problems related to peritoneal closure devices over the years. Tacks and staples may be displaced or loosen in the abdominal cavity giving rise to complications including bowel herniation through failed peritoneal closure and bowel obstruction. Additionally, bowel obstruction may be caused by adhesions to tacks or staples. Suture closures present problems such as knot failure and loosening of the suture or slippage of the guarding clips.

Author: Priv.-Doz. Dr. Christian Hollinsky, M.D. graduate of the Medical University of Vienna. He did his internship and residency at the Medical University of Vienna and the Kaiserin Elisabeth Hospital and was trained by Prof. Hinder at the Mayo Clinic Florida and by Prof. Soehendra at the University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf. He is currently senior physician of the first surgical department of the SMZ Foridsdorf and Associate Professor of Surgery at the Medical University of Vienna. He is founder and president of the Austrian Hernia Society. His main research areas are laparoscopic surgery, especially hernia surgery and endoscopic procedures. He has lectured worldwide and is author of numerous papers and chapters with a particular interest in biomechanical evaluations. He is reviewer of several scientific journals.

Product discussed: V-Loc™ 180 absorbable wound closure device
The properties of this barbed device such as prevention of suture movement or the knotless design are invaluable. This single-surgeon’s experience with the V-Loc™ 180 device during the past seven months has been absolutely favourable.

The V-Loc™ wound closure device has been used for peritoneal closure in 100 TAPP hernia repairs reaching sufficient suture tensile and barb holding strength, so that no insufficient peritoneal closure has been observed so far due to suture failure. Furthermore, there were neither complications nor adverse effects related to the V-Loc™ wound closure device.

The pictures below show the use of the V-Loc™ 180 device in peritoneal closure during TAPP hernia repair.