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Laparoscopic vs. open inguinal hernia repair: Is laparoscopic actually quicker?

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Aim: Laparoscopic unilateral inguinal hernia repair is perceived to have longer operating times. However, laparoscopic inguinal hernia repair is known to be equally safe and more efficient when compared to open repair in short term outcomes. We evaluated the procedure times in Royal Oldham Hospital.

Method: We retrospectively analyzed the prospectively maintained data on the Operating Room Management Information System (ORMIS) looking at the operating times for both laparoscopic Transabdominal Preperitoneal (TAPP) and open repair of unilateral and bilateral inguinal hernia repair. We looked at the operations between 2014 and 2019 done by four surgeons who each had more than 5 years of laparoscopic experience, performing more than 40 hernia repairs each year. Data included total 308 procedures, 172 TAPP (55.8%) of which 133 unilateral (77%) and 136 open repairs (44.2%) of which 126 unilateral (96%).

Results: Average time for unilateral TAPP was 44.08 minutes ranging from 25 to 106 minutes compared with 54 minutes for open repair ranging from 23 to 103 minutes.

Conclusion: Our study shows TAPP repair is on average quicker than open repair. We can say that after passing the learning curve of laparoscopic surgery, it becomes significantly quicker than open repair.