

Use of a new instrument in the management of Total Laparoscopic Radical Hysterectomy (TLRH)

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Study Objective: To evaluate safety and efficacy of a modified tenaculum called SNAIL (Simple Nebs Arising Incision Landmark) for gynecological oncologic surgery.

Design: Prospective, single center, feasibility study.

Setting: Division of Gynecology Oncology, National Cancer Institute.

Patients: Women undergoing TLRH for endometrial and cervical cancer.

Intervention: This invention originates by a surgical reusable instrument named Uterine Tenaculum Forceps, model Schroder, code 32-622-25 of Martin catalogue. This tenaculum is modified adding four nebs 1-2 cm of distance from the tips of the instrument, two for each main branch of the tenaculum. The nebs are 1 cm each and widen with a 90 degrees angle between them. They can be perpendicular to main axis of instrument or forming with latter 45-60 degrees angle bent forward. In order to preserve an adequate pneumoperitoneum during colpotomy a simple iodine gauze with 2 or 3 gloves are placed in vagina.

Measurements and Main Results: We used SNAIL Tenaculum in 32 patients for early endometrial and cervical cancer. During the procedure the nebs were always under vision also in obese patients. The average length of circular vagina removed with the uterus was 21 mm (range 10- 40mm). None intraoperative complications were registered.

Conclusion: At present the risk of perforation, lympho-vascular spaces involvement (LVSI) and positive peritoneal cytology by uterine manipulation is still debated. We found SNAIL tenaculum to be a safe and efficient tool for patients who undergo TLRH since it eliminates risks of perforation, LVSI and positivization of peritoneal cytology, maintaining same chances of uterine mobility. Also the nebs allow surgeon to choose the length of vaginal wall to be removed modulating, proximally or distally to them, the incision line. Last, but not least, must be said SNAIL tenaculum combines the ease of use of a very familiar instrument to gynecologists, with the lowest cost so far recorded.