

Is it cost-effective for patients to removal their own catheter following pelvic floor repair during COVID pandemic?

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Abstract

Objectives: To assess the willingness of patients to remove urinary catheters by themselves after anterior / posterior vaginal wall repairs done as day cases **Design:** This was a non-randomized, single centre, prospective pilot study where we included patients who have had anterior and/or posterior colporrhaphy as day cases between November 2020 and September 2022. **Setting -** UK DGH hospital urogynaecology department **Population:** all patients who had anterior/ posterior colporrhaphy as day cases between nov 2020 and sept 2022 **Methods :**Non-randomized, single centre, prospective pilot study **Main Outcome:** Majority of patients were able to remove their urinary catheters post operatively without complications **Measures:** Outcomes were evaluated using patients' feedback responses **Results:** The data obtained was over 22 month period. The total was a total of 81 patients with 61% of them having anterior repairs and 39% having posterior repairs. Ages of the participants ranged from 42 years to 89 years. 79 % of questionnaires were returned. 98% of the enrolled patients would not prefer to wait for another admission date where a bed will be available. 97% of our patients removed the urinary catheter by themselves and found it to be easy. 88% of our patients would not prefer to come to the hospital or have a nurse sent to their homes to remove the catheter. 89 % of our patients would recommend this service to a friend. **Conclusion:** Our Study demonstrated that removal of patient's own catheter following vaginal wall repairs is cost-saving and highly acceptable to this cohort of patients

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