

## UROTHELIAL LINED CYSTOPLASTY IN A SHEEP MODEL

and

## Clinical Application of these and Related Procedures

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#### **SUMMARY**

This study looks at the laboratory development and clinical use of new techniques for bladder augmentation, all of which result in a neo-bladder lined by urothelium. The combination of autoaugmentation and demucosalised enterocystoplasty was explored in a sheep model, using both the stomach and colon. These results were then compared with a control group, and animals after demucosalised enterocystoplasty without autoaugmentation and autoaugmentation alone. In addition, the clinical application of the laboratory developed approach was studied. As well, patients who had either a ureterocystoplasty or diverticulocystoplasty were followed.

#### **Sheep experiments**

The sheep experiments have demonstrated the feasibility of demucosalisation of the sheep fourth stomach, the usual survival of the urothelium under the gastric patch and the ability to produce an augmented bladder. It appears that the urothelium of an autoaugmentation does not always survive, and when urine is in contact with the denuded muscle, through a defect in the autoaugmentation, poor urodynamic results are seen. However, the autoaugmentation gastrocystoplasty was the only group with a significantly larger bladder at six months. The numbers of animals at 12 months were too small for statistical significance to be achieved, but the trends appeared to persist. The colon bladders failed, due to the inability of the delicate colon to tolerate the dissection necessary to remove the mucosa, and demucosalised enterocystoplasty failed to improve the bladder capacity because of the slow ingrowth of the urothelium over the muscle allowed for the development of fibrosis. The autoaugmentation alone produced an unsatisfactory bladder, probably secondary to the overlying fat being poorly compliant. Variability in the control group and those operated on was a notable feature.

The animal bladders were assessed radiologically, urodynamically, macroscopically and histologically.

#### **Patient Application**

Ureterocystoplasty has been used in five boys and diverticulocystoplasty in one, with improvement in the bladder capacity in all. Concurrently, these procedures were successful in reducing the predisposition to urinary tract infection and pyelonephritis. An additional advantage to each of these operations is the ability to use them in the first year of life, thus preventing the need for urine diversion.

The autoaugmentation enterocystoplasty has been used in nine children, five using the stomach and four using colon as the source of muscle, with improvement in the bladder function in all. These operations take longer than a routine enterocystoplasty, and are much more difficult to perform. Both the bladder and bowel dissections are tedious and time consuming, however, the effort seems worth the investment, given the long-term complications that are avoided. No mucosal regrowth has been evident in any of the patients, nor in any animals where removal of the submucosa, with the mucosa, was performed.

The results are encouraging, but, obviously, on-going surveillance is needed to ensure that a new set of complications is not generated by these procedures. With careful attention to operative detail and post-operative care, the "urothelial lined" approach to cystoplasty will hopefully provide those who need a bladder augmentation with a better future. On-going extensive animal studies and careful clinical follow-up is required to ensure appropriate use of this new concept.

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# Clinical Application of Urothelial Bladder Augmentation

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