

Appendix

Surgical strategy for contralateral groin management in patients scheduled for unilateral inguinal hernia repair. An international web-based SurveyMonkey questionnaire.

Accompanying responder-introduction to the questionnaire

Before you start to fill out the questionnaire you should carefully read the following about incidental contralateral hernia:

You see a patient in your office preoperatively. At clinical examination you find a unilateral symptomatic inguinal hernia. The patient does not have symptoms on the contralateral side and no 'bulge' is demonstrable on examination (ultrasound not performed or ultrasound negative). However, during the operation you find a contralateral hernia.

Questions

Where do you mainly perform inguinal hernia surgery?

- Public institution
- Private institution

How many laparoscopic inguinal hernia repairs have you performed?

- <100
- 100 – 300
- >300

Do you on a routine basis perform laparoscopic inguinal hernia repair?

- Yes
- No

What is your standard inguinal hernia repair?

- TEP
- TAPP

Inguinal hernia repair

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During TEP, would you routinely explore the contralateral side pre-peritoneally for an inguinal hernia (provided preoperative consent is given)?

- Yes, in female and male patients
- Yes, in female patients
- Yes, in male patients
- No

During TEP/TAPP*, would you routinely insert a mesh on the contralateral side if you DO NOT find a contralateral hernia (provided preoperative consent is given)?

- Yes, in female and male patients
- Yes, in female patients
- Yes, in male patients
- No

During TEP/TAPP*, would you routinely insert a mesh on the contralateral side ONLY if you find a contralateral hernia (provided preoperative consent is given)?

- Yes, in female and male patients
- Yes, in female patients
- Yes, in male patients
- No

Hernia lipoma

If you find a contralateral 'hernia' lipoma during TEP/TAPP* (with no apparent hernia at first sight), would you then as a routine retract the lipoma and perform a contralateral mesh implantation (provided preoperative consent is given)?

- Yes, in female and male patients
- Yes, in female patients
- Yes, in male patients
- No