Surgical management of pelvic organ prolapse: articles from the ICUD book

Paul Riss • Peter L. Dwyer

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The treatment of pelvic organ prolapse (POP) is one of the most important and challenging areas in urogynecology. Many aspects have to be considered: epidemiology, assessment of the patient, quality of life and sexuality issues, surgical management of prolapse in the different compartments, complications, and last but not least, questions of health economics. All urogynecologists dealing with these issues depend on good evidence. In recent years the books prepared by the working groups of the International Consultation on Urological Diseases (ICUD) have become valuable tools for the practice of evidence-based medicine. The chapters are well structured, give an overview of the current knowledge, and summarize the available evidence in specific recommendations.

The last International Consultation on Incontinence took place in Paris in 2012, and the results of this consultation have again been published in book form [1]. One of the editors of the *International Urogynecology Journal* (IUI), Christopher Maher, was instrumental in coordinating the working group on the surgical treatment of pelvic organ prolapse. He assembled a team of experts and produced the corresponding chapter of the book.

As with previous editions, the 5th edition of the book will eventually be freely available in PDF format. It is also ICUD policy to encourage publication of the different book chapters in peer-reviewed journals. For the IUI, Christopher Maher prepared 10 articles based on the book chapter covering all aspects of the surgical treatment of pelvic organ prolapse. These articles are published in this issue of the IUI.

It is our hope that these articles will be of interest to the readers of the IUI, to clinicians and to researchers. The articles are in the format of the IUI and can be accessed through our website and in paper form and referenced as IUI articles. We realize that scientific evidence often has a short half-life, but until new evidence emerges we believe that these articles constitute a valuable summary of the current knowledge on the surgical treatment of pelvic organ prolapse.

Reference

1. Abrams P, Cardozo L, Khoury S, Wein A (eds) (2013) Incontinence, 5th edn. European Association of Urology Publications, Arnhem

P. Riss (✉)
Gynecology & Obstetrics, Medical University of Vienna, Anna
Frauer Gasse 2, 1180 Vienna, Austria
e-mail: priuj11@gmail.com

P. L. Dwyer
Obstetrics and Gynecology, Mercy Hospital for Women, University
of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia
e-mail: pdwyer@connexus.net.au