Does mesh shrinkage in any way depend upon the method of mesh fixation in laparoscopic incisional hernia repair?

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To the Editor,

This is an interesting article written by Guido et al. comparing mesh shrinkage with the method of fixation. The authors have made interesting observations citing that the mode of mesh fixation influences the extent of mesh shrinkage; however, no references in support of this have been quoted. This would have been more scientific if some references—either experimental/animal study—of the same were provided.

This is a new and interesting observation observed by the authors. It mentions that this study confirms that the tensile strength of the suture is greater than the other method of fixation. The authors have quoted the study by van't Riet et al., in which mesh fixation strength was calculated by measuring the force required to disrupt the mesh using the dynamometer [1]. The readers would be interested to know which scientific method was adopted by the authors to determine the mesh fixation strength and arrive at this conclusion. Furthermore, it does not seem justified to attribute this to less shrinkage in the suture group. Some hypothesis or reason for the same should have been

mentioned in the study. The primary outcome of the study was mesh shrinkage and this should have been discussed in more detail.

Another point that needs clarification is whether this difference of shrinkage in two groups has any clinical significance, especially with recurrences. There are two recurrences in this study: one in each group. It would be interesting to know the timing of recurrences.

The number of patients in each group was too small to make any definite conclusions. Additional larger studies are required to validate this new and interesting observation.

Disclosures Drs. Rehan N. Khan, Vikas Jindal, Virinder Kumar Bansal, Mahesh C. Misra, and Subodh Kumar have no conflicts of interest or financial ties to disclose.

Reference

1. van't Riet M, de Vos van Steenvijk PJ, Kleinrensink GJ, Steyerberg EW, Bonjer HJ (2002) Tensile strength of mesh fixation methods in laparoscopic incisional hernia repair. *Surg Endosc* 16:1713–1716

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