



Variation Of adoLesCent inguinAl herNia Operations



Paediatric Surgical Trainees
Research Network

Volcano Registration Letter of Support

To Whom It May Concern:

Please find this letter in support of registration of the national service evaluation study 'Variation Of adoLesCent InguinAl herNia Operations' (VOLCANO) in your hospital. This study is a Paediatric Surgical Trainees Research Network collaboration looking at assessing the variety in surgical management of adolescent inguinal hernias. This letter provides an overview of the study.

Background

There is variation in the surgical management of adolescent inguinal hernias across centres and surgeons, particularly with regards to the type of repair (closure/ligation of patent processus vaginalis vs muscle/mesh repair) and the choice of surgical approach (open vs laparoscopic) (1-4). The variation in practice is exacerbated by this population being managed by both paediatric and adult general surgeons who demonstrate differences in surgical technique (1,3,5).

Aims

- To describe the current practice in management of adolescent inguinal hernias in the UK (adolescence defined as 10-19yrs by the World Health Organisation)
- To identify the proportion of direct versus indirect inguinal hernia in this cohort
- Identify the complication and recurrence rate in adolescent inguinal hernia

Methodology

On enrolment to the study, participating centres will complete a one-time survey characterising the inguinal hernia repair pathway and operating surgeon demographics in their centre. Data collectors will then use REDCap to collect anonymous data for each inguinal hernia repair carried out during the data collection window (1st August 2019-1st August 2024).

Data to be captured includes:

- Patient demographics
- Pre-operative data
- Operative details



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- Post-operative management

Ethical Approval

This study does not require NHS Research Ethics Committee approval.

Data Management

All data will be collected by local collaborators (doctors) in each centre. Data will be collected from clinical and operation notes. Each record will be allocated an anonymous participant identification number and no directly identifiable data will be collected. All data will be submitted to the secure REDCap system which is stored on a secure server. Only the principle investigators will have access to the anonymised data on REDCap.

Project leads

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References

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- 4 – Reistrup H, Andresen K, Rosenberg J (2023). Low incidence of recurrence and chronic pain after groin hernia repair in adolescents: a systematic review and meta-analysis. (2023). *Langenbecks Arch Surg.* 26;308(1):211
- 5- Criss CN, Gish N, Gish J et al (2018). Outcomes of Adolescent and Young Adults Receiving High Ligation and Mesh Repairs: A 16-Year Experience. *J Laparoendosc Adv Surg Tech A.* 28(20):223-228