

World Journal of *Clinical Cases*

World J Clin Cases 2021 May 6; 9(13): 2951-3226



REVIEW

- 2951 Patients with cirrhosis during the COVID-19 pandemic: Current evidence and future perspectives
Su HY, Hsu YC

MINIREVIEWS

- 2969 Immunotherapy for pancreatic cancer
Yoon JH, Jung YJ, Moon SH

ORIGINAL ARTICLE**Retrospective Study**

- 2983 Scrotal septal flap and two-stage operation for complex hypospadias: A retrospective study
Chen S, Yang Z, Ma N, Wang WX, Xu LS, Liu QY, Li YQ
- 2994 Clinical diagnosis of severe COVID-19: A derivation and validation of a prediction rule
Tang M, Yu XX, Huang J, Gao JL, Cen FL, Xiao Q, Fu SZ, Yang Y, Xiong B, Pan YJ, Liu YX, Feng YW, Li JX, Liu Y
- 3008 Prognostic value of hemodynamic indices in patients with sepsis after fluid resuscitation
Xu HP, Zhuo XA, Yao JJ, Wu DY, Wang X, He P, Ouyang YH

Observational Study

- 3014 Updated Kimura-Takemoto classification of atrophic gastritis
Kotelevets SM, Chekh SA, Chukov SZ

SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS

- 3024 Systematic review and meta-analysis of the impact of deviations from a clinical pathway on outcomes following pancreatoduodenectomy
Karunakaran M, Jonnada PK, Barreto SG

META-ANALYSIS

- 3038 Early *vs* late cholecystectomy in mild gall stone pancreatitis: An updated meta-analysis and review of literature
Walayat S, Baig M, Puli SR

CASE REPORT

- 3048 Effects of intravascular laser phototherapy on delayed neurological sequelae after carbon monoxide intoxication as evaluated by brain perfusion imaging: A case report and review of the literature
Liu CC, Hsu CS, He HC, Cheng YY, Chang ST

- 3056** *Crumbs homolog 2* mutation in two siblings with steroid-resistant nephrotic syndrome: Two case reports
Lu J, Guo YN, Dong LQ
- 3063** Intracortical chondroma of the metacarpal bone: A case report
Yoshida Y, Anazawa U, Watanabe I, Hotta H, Aoyama R, Suzuki S, Nagura T
- 3070** Vancomycin-related convulsion in a pediatric patient with neuroblastoma: A case report and review of the literature
Ye QF, Wang GF, Wang YX, Lu GP, Li ZP
- 3079** Pulmonary arterial hyper-tension in a patient with hereditary hemorrhagic telangiectasia and family gene analysis: A case report
Wu J, Yuan Y, Wang X, Shao DY, Liu LG, He J, Li P
- 3090** Misdiagnosed dystrophic epidermolysis bullosa pruriginosa: A case report
Wang Z, Lin Y, Duan XW, Hang HY, Zhang X, Li LL
- 3095** Spontaneous coronary dissection should not be ignored in patients with chest pain in autosomal dominant polycystic kidney disease: A case report
Qian J, Lai Y, Kuang LJ, Chen F, Liu XB
- 3102** Sarcomatoid carcinoma of the pancreas – multimodality imaging findings with serial imaging follow-up: A case report and review of literature
Lim HJ, Kang HS, Lee JE, Min JH, Shin KS, You SK, Kim KH
- 3114** Acute pancreatitis and small bowel obstruction caused by a migratory gastric bezoar after dissolution therapy: A case report
Wang TT, He JJ, Liu J, Chen WW, Chen CW
- 3120** Intracardiac, pulmonary cement embolism in a 67-year-old female after cement-augmented pedicle screw instrumentation: A case report and review of literature
Liang TZ, Zhu HP, Gao B, Peng Y, Gao WJ
- 3130** Acute urinary retention in the first and second-trimester of pregnancy: Three case reports
Zhuang L, Wang XY, Sang Y, Xu J, He XL
- 3140** Sarcoidosis mimicking metastases in an echinoderm microtubule-associated protein-like 4 anaplastic lymphoma kinase positive non-small-lung cancer patient: A case report
Chen X, Wang J, Han WL, Zhao K, Chen Z, Zhou JY, Shen YH
- 3147** Three-dimensional printed talar prosthesis with biological function for giant cell tumor of the talus: A case report and review of the literature
Yang QD, Mu MD, Tao X, Tang KL
- 3157** Successful upgrade to cardiac resynchronization therapy for cardiac implantation-associated left subclavian vein occlusion: A case report
Zhong JY, Zheng XW, Li HD, Jiang LF

- 3163** Sodium-glucose co-transporter-2 inhibitor-associated euglycemic diabetic ketoacidosis that prompted the diagnosis of fulminant type-1 diabetes: A case report
Yasuma T, Okano Y, Tanaka S, Nishihama K, Eguchi K, Inoue C, Maki K, Uchida A, Uemura M, Suzuki T, D'Alessandro-Gabazza CN, Gabazza EC, Yano Y
- 3170** Perioperative massive cerebral stroke in thoracic patients: Report of three cases
Jian MY, Liang F, Liu HY, Han RQ
- 3177** Renal artery embolization in the treatment of urinary fistula after renal duplication: A case report and review of literature
Yang T, Wen J, Xu TT, Cui WJ, Xu J
- 3185** Clinical characteristics of intrahepatic biliary papilloma: A case report
Yi D, Zhao LJ, Ding XB, Wang TW, Liu SY
- 3194** Association between scrub typhus encephalitis and diffusion tensor tractography detection of Papez circuit injury: A case report
Kwon HG, Yang JH, Kwon JH, Yang D
- 3200** Alström syndrome with a novel mutation of *ALMS1* and Graves' hyperthyroidism: A case report and review of the literature
Zhang JJ, Wang JQ, Sun MQ, Xu D, Xiao Y, Lu WL, Dong ZY
- 3212** Laparoscopic uncontained power morcellation-induced dissemination of ovarian endodermal sinus tumors: A case report
Oh HK, Park SN, Kim BR
- 3219** Treatment of acute severe ulcerative colitis using accelerated infliximab regimen based on infliximab trough level: A case report
Garate ALSV, Rocha TB, Almeida LR, Quera R, Barros JR, Baima JP, Saad-Hossne R, Sasaki LY

ABOUT COVER

Editorial Board Member of *World Journal of Clinical Cases*, Rama R Vunnam, MBBS, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center, Hershey, PA 17033, United States. rvunnam@pennstatehealth.psu.edu

AIMS AND SCOPE

The primary aim of *World Journal of Clinical Cases (WJCC, World J Clin Cases)* is to provide scholars and readers from various fields of clinical medicine with a platform to publish high-quality clinical research articles and communicate their research findings online.

WJCC mainly publishes articles reporting research results and findings obtained in the field of clinical medicine and covering a wide range of topics, including case control studies, retrospective cohort studies, retrospective studies, clinical trials studies, observational studies, prospective studies, randomized controlled trials, randomized clinical trials, systematic reviews, meta-analysis, and case reports.

INDEXING/ABSTRACTING

The *WJCC* is now indexed in Science Citation Index Expanded (also known as SciSearch®), Journal Citation Reports/Science Edition, Scopus, PubMed, and PubMed Central. The 2020 Edition of Journal Citation Reports® cites the 2019 impact factor (IF) for *WJCC* as 1.013; IF without journal self cites: 0.991; Ranking: 120 among 165 journals in medicine, general and internal; and Quartile category: Q3. The *WJCC*'s CiteScore for 2019 is 0.3 and Scopus CiteScore rank 2019: General Medicine is 394/529.

RESPONSIBLE EDITORS FOR THIS ISSUE

Production Editor: Yan-Xia Xing, Production Department Director: Yun-Xiaoqian Wu, Editorial Office Director: Jin-Lai Wang.

NAME OF JOURNAL

World Journal of Clinical Cases

ISSN

ISSN 2307-8960 (online)

LAUNCH DATE

April 16, 2013

FREQUENCY

Thrice Monthly

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

Dennis A Bloomfield, Sandro Vento, Bao-Gan Peng

EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBERS

<https://www.wjgnet.com/2307-8960/editorialboard.htm>

PUBLICATION DATE

May 6, 2021

COPYRIGHT

© 2021 Baishideng Publishing Group Inc

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

<https://www.wjgnet.com/bpg/gerinfo/204>

GUIDELINES FOR ETHICS DOCUMENTS

<https://www.wjgnet.com/bpg/GerInfo/287>

GUIDELINES FOR NON-NATIVE SPEAKERS OF ENGLISH

<https://www.wjgnet.com/bpg/gerinfo/240>

PUBLICATION ETHICS

<https://www.wjgnet.com/bpg/GerInfo/288>

PUBLICATION MISCONDUCT

<https://www.wjgnet.com/bpg/gerinfo/208>

ARTICLE PROCESSING CHARGE

<https://www.wjgnet.com/bpg/gerinfo/242>

STEPS FOR SUBMITTING MANUSCRIPTS

<https://www.wjgnet.com/bpg/GerInfo/239>

ONLINE SUBMISSION

<https://www.f6publishing.com>

Retrospective Study

Scrotal septal flap and two-stage operation for complex hypospadias: A retrospective study

Sen Chen, Zhe Yang, Ning Ma, Wei-Xin Wang, Li-Si Xu, Qi-Yu Liu, Yang-Qun Li

ORCID number: Sen Chen 0000-0001-8147-3157; Zhe Yang 0000-0002-2189-116X; Ning Ma 0000-0003-2833-5331; Wei-Xin Wang 0000-0003-2807-3298; Li-Si Xu 0000-0002-2407-7243; Qi-Yu Liu 0000-0002-9607-3524; Yang-Qun Li 0000-0002-2299-8225.

Author contributions: Chen S performed study design, data collection, data analysis, data interpretation, manuscript drafting, manuscript revision; Yang Z and Li YQ performed study design, data collection, data analysis, data interpretation, manuscript drafting, literature analysis, funds collection, manuscript revision; Ma N, Wang WX, Xu LS and Liu QY performed study design, data collection, data analysis; all authors have read and approved the manuscript.

Supported by Special Research Fund for Plastic Surgery Hospital, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences and Peking Union Medical College, No. B2018009; and Beijing Municipal Science & Technology Commission-Functional Urethral Reconstruction of Hypospadias by Tissue Transplantation, No. Z161100000516015.

Institutional review board statement: This study was

Sen Chen, Zhe Yang, Ning Ma, Wei-Xin Wang, Li-Si Xu, Qi-Yu Liu, Yang-Qun Li, The 2nd Department of Plastic Surgery, Plastic Surgery Hospital, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences and Peking Union Medical College, Beijing 100144, China

Corresponding author: Yang-Qun Li, MD, Doctor, The 2nd Department of Plastic Surgery, Plastic Surgery Hospital, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences and Peking Union Medical College, No. 33 Badachu Road, Shijingshan District, Beijing 100144, China. liyqdoctor@163.com

Abstract

BACKGROUND

Complex hypospadias is a surgical challenge.

AIM

To present the long-term outcomes of two-stage repair of complex hypospadias using a scrotal septal flap.

METHODS

This was a retrospective study of patients with complex hypospadias who were operated on between January 1st, 2001, and January 1st, 2019, at a single hospital using a scrotal septal flap (two-stage surgery) or prepuce flap (one-stage surgery; control group). In the scrotal group, the urethra was first repaired using oral mucosa; in the second stage, a scrotal septal flap was used as a second impermeable layer. Maximal/average urinary flow rates after surgery were compared. All patients were followed for ≥ 6 mo (range: 6-96 mo).

RESULTS

Ninety-seven patients were included (46 in the scrotal group and 51 in the prepuce group). The maximal urinary flow rate was 15.4 ± 2.1 mL/s in the scrotal group and 14.3 ± 3.0 mL/s in the control group ($P = 0.035$). The average urinary flow rate was 8.4 ± 2.3 mL/s in the scrotal group and 7.5 ± 1.5 mL/s in the control group ($P = 0.019$). The proportion of patients achieving good therapeutic effects was higher in the scrotal group than in the control group [24 (52.2%) vs 16 (31.4%), $P = 0.042$; 34 (73.9%) vs 25 (49.0%), $P = 0.014$]. The scrotal flap two-stage surgery was independently associated with a higher maximal urinary flow rate (OR = 2.416, 95%CI: 1.026-5.689, $P = 0.044$) and with a higher average flow rate (OR = 2.484, 95%CI: 1.054-5.854, $P = 0.038$).

approved by the Medical Ethics Review Board of the Plastic Surgery Hospital, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences (CAMS), and Peking Union Medical College (PUMC), No. ZX201968.

Informed consent statement:

Written Informed consent was obtained from the study participants.

Conflict-of-interest statement: The authors have no conflict of interest to disclose.

Data sharing statement: The datasets used and/or analyzed during the current study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

Open-Access: This article is an open-access article that was selected by an in-house editor and fully peer-reviewed by external reviewers. It is distributed in accordance with the Creative Commons Attribution NonCommercial (CC BY-NC 4.0) license, which permits others to distribute, remix, adapt, build upon this work non-commercially, and license their derivative works on different terms, provided the original work is properly cited and the use is non-commercial. See: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>

Manuscript source: Unsolicited manuscript

Specialty type: Medicine, research and experimental

Country/Territory of origin: China

Peer-review report's scientific quality classification

Grade A (Excellent): 0
Grade B (Very good): 0
Grade C (Good): C
Grade D (Fair): 0
Grade E (Poor): 0

Received: September 10, 2020

Peer-review started: September 10, 2020

First decision: December 28, 2020

Revised: January 10, 2021

Accepted: February 11, 2021

CONCLUSION

In complex hypospadias, a scrotal septal flap could be a versatile and reliable option for resurfacing the penis.

Key Words: Hypospadias; Oral mucosa; Scrotum; Surgical flap; Fistula; Retrospective study

©The Author(s) 2021. Published by Baishideng Publishing Group Inc. All rights reserved.

Core Tip: The proportion of patients achieving good therapeutic effects for maximal and average urinary flow rates was higher in the scrotal group than in controls. The scrotal flap two-stage surgery was independently associated with higher maximal and average urinary flow rates.

Citation: Chen S, Yang Z, Ma N, Wang WX, Xu LS, Liu QY, Li YQ. Scrotal septal flap and two-stage operation for complex hypospadias: A retrospective study. *World J Clin Cases* 2021; 9(13): 2983-2993

URL: <https://www.wjgnet.com/2307-8960/full/v9/i13/2983.htm>

DOI: <https://dx.doi.org/10.12998/wjcc.v9.i13.2983>

INTRODUCTION

Hypospadias is a common abnormality during fetal development of the penis, in which the urethra does not open at its usual location in the head of the penis. It is the second-most common birth abnormality of the male reproductive system, with an incidence of 0.3%-0.7% in live male births^[1-4]. The location of the urethral meatus can be within the glans, at the corona, the shaft of the penis, the scrotum, or the perineum^[4-7]. Hypospadias is accompanied by urethral deficiency, chordee, a ventrally deficient hooded foreskin, dorsal hood prepuce, and incomplete foreskin around the glans. Several patients with hypospadias also present scrotal splitting, penoscrotal transposition, small penis, cryptorchidism, and inguinal hernia. Hypospadias has impacts on both urinary and sexual function^[4,6].

Since the 19th century, many surgical methods have been proposed^[4,8-12], but none of these methods have been reported to achieve an ideal result in complex hypospadias^[13,14]. Theoretically, surgical treatment aims to repair both cosmetic and functional abnormalities. Cosmetically, the following goals should be achieved: (1) achieving a normal outer genital form; (2) straightening the chordee; and (3) revising the location of the urinary meatus^[12]. Functionally, repair should allow standing urination, have no surgery-related complications (urethral fistula, urethral stenosis, and urethral diverticulum), decrease the occurrence of lower urinary tract symptoms, and cure ejaculatory dysfunction^[12].

Complex hypospadias is a surgical challenge characterized by (1) a urethral meatus in the proximal penis, penoscrotal, scrotum, or perineum; or (2) redo operation^[15-17]. For patients with complex hypospadias, the surgical outcomes mainly depend on tissue availability for repair and a well-scheduled treatment. Even though all kinds of graft tissues (skin, bladder, and oral mucosa) have several disadvantages, the two-stage repair technique for complex hypospadias is critical. Oral mucosa is an appropriate urethral substitute; it is easy to harvest, hairless, resilient, and easy to handle. For patients with complex hypospadias, finding an appropriate flap to repair the foreskin deficiency and cover the wound is challenging. Liu *et al*^[18] suggested using a scrotal septal skin flap to cover the wound at the ventral side of the reconstructed urethra.

In the present study, we report a series of patients with complex hypospadias treated by two-stage hypospadias repair using a scrotal septal flap. The present study aimed to present the long-term outcomes of two-stage hypospadias repair with a scrotal septal flap for complex hypospadias.

Article in press: February 11, 2021

Published online: May 6, 2021

P-Reviewer: Yang G

S-Editor: Fan JR

L-Editor: Webster JR

P-Editor: Liu JH



MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study design and patients

This retrospective study included patients with complex hypospadias operated between January 1st, 2001, and January 1st, 2019, at a single hospital. This study was approved by the Medical Ethics Review Board of the Plastic Surgery Hospital (No. ZX201968). Written Informed consent was obtained from the study participants.

The inclusion criteria were: (1) complex hypospadias; (2) > 18 years of age; (3) completed urethra reconstruction surgery; and (4) available data on ultrasound, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), and urinary flow rate. Those with other congenital malformations were excluded.

Grouping

The patients were grouped according to the flaps used during surgery: Scrotal septal flap or prepuce flap (control group). Surgery with a scrotal septal flap was a two-stage operation, while surgery with a prepuce flap was a one-stage operation. The prepuce flap was not the recommended surgical procedure for proximal penile and penoscrotal hypospadias. However, the reasons why this surgery was performed during the study period included (1) in low-income areas, a large number of patients cannot afford two-stage surgery, and they need a simple and inexpensive operation; and (2) some patients admitted to our center refused a two-stage operation, and they requested a one-stage repair. Patients with sufficient residual prepuce tissue for repair could undergo a one-stage surgery. Those with insufficient residual prepuce tissue had to undergo scrotal septal flap and two-stage surgery for urethral reconstruction.

Urethra reconstruction surgery with scrotal septal flap

Stage one: All patients were operated on under general anesthesia. The surgeons were divided into two teams: The oral team and the penis team. Both teams were led by a surgeon with > 30 years of experience.

The surgeons in the oral team identified the parotid duct opposite the upper second molar. The size of the harvested buccal mucosal strips was estimated. Two mucosal strips were obtained (length of 3.5-5.5 cm and width of 0.8-1.5 cm). The width of the strip determined the diameter of the repaired urethra, while the distance between the normal meatus and the abnormal opening indicated the length of the strip. The donor sites were sutured. Chloramphenicol powder was wrapped in a gauze roll. The gauze roll wall had two layers: The outer layer was ordinary gauze, while the inner layer was a piece of oiled silk. The roll diameter was approximately 0.5-1.2 cm, depending on the width of the mucosal strips. The mucosal strips were sutured longitudinally with each other and covered the fabricated gauze roll to form a mucosal tube.

The penis team surgeons made an incision around the displaced meatus and on the ventral side of the penis, coronary sulcus, and glans. The Y-shaped incision in the glans would become the future meatus. The fibrous tissues were dissected, straightening the curved penis. For re-operative patients who presented urethral stenosis or urethral fistula, an attempt was made to use a urethral probe. The failing urethra was then incised vertically until normal urethra was observed. The urethral stricture was removed. A ventral tunnel was created using the surrounding penile tissue. The tunnel was located between the subcutaneous and tunica albuginea and extended from the normal urethral meatus to the incised glans. The fabricated mucosal tube was then inserted into the tunnel. Both ends of the tube were sutured to the surrounding tissues. A Foley catheter was placed in the bladder. There were gauze ties in the distal and proximal parts of the mucosal tube. An outer dressing was used to provide stress to adhere to the mucosal tube in the tunnel wall. The gauze roll was removed after one month ([Supplementary Figure 1](#)).

Stage two: Urethra reconstruction surgery with scrotal septal flap.

After 6-12 mo, the second surgery was carried out. The distance between the repaired urethral mucosa's proximal meatus and the normal urethral meatus was measured (length of approximately 1.0-2.5 cm). Next, they were anastomosed by an absorbable suture around the catheter. The adventitial tissue was harvested to cover the wound as a waterproof layer. A scrotal septal skin flap was harvested as another waterproof layer. The size of the wound was measured before the flap was harvested. The island flap was transferred to cover the wound. A small latex drain was left in the donor site ([Supplementary Figure 2](#)).

Urethra reconstruction surgery with prepuce flap

All patients in this group were operated on using the onlay island prepuce flap described by Elder *et al*^[19] and Rodriguez *et al*^[20].

Observation parameters and follow-up

Demographic and clinical data were recorded, including age, the subtype of hypospadias, and treatment history. During the follow-up visits after surgery, the maximal and average urinary flow rates were measured according to the 2019 standards of the International Continence Society (ICS) to determine the urination status and therapeutic effect^[21]. According to the 2019 ICS standards, a maximal urinary flow rate > 15 mL/s was considered normal and thus was considered a good therapeutic effect in this study. An average urinary flow rate > 7.5 mL/s was considered a good effect.

Postoperative complications such as mucosa fibrosis, complete neourethral stricture, fistula, meatal stenosis, and diverticulitis were evaluated during the follow-up visits by ultrasound and MRI. For ultrasound, saline was injected into the urethra to examine complications and to identify minor lesions. Before saline injection, the urethra could not be seen (Video 1). When ultrasound was performed, a physician injected saline through the urethral meatus (Video 2 and Video 3). Water transferred pressure to the urethra, showing stenosis, fistula, and diverticulitis (Video 4 and Video 5). An MRI urogram was used to observe the form of the urethra. After urinating, the residual urine in the urethra was an excellent medium to show the form of the urethra.

All patients were followed for at least 6 mo (range: 6 to 96 mo) after surgery.

Statistical analysis

Stata/SE 15.1 (Stata Corp., College Station, TX, United States) was used for statistical analysis. Continuous variables are presented as means \pm SDs, or as medians and interquartile ranges according to their distribution, as determined by the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test. Categorical variables were reported as frequency with percentage. Continuous data were compared with the Student's *t*-test. The rates of complications were compared using the Chi-square test. A multivariable analysis was performed by logistic regression (enter method) with good surgical effect as the dependent variable. Two-sided *P* values < 0.05 were considered statistically significant.

RESULTS

Basic information

Ninety-seven patients were included in this study, with 46 in the scrotal septal flap group and 51 in the prepuce flap group. The characteristics of the patients are shown in Supplementary Table 1.

Therapeutic effect

The maximal urinary flow rate was 15.4 ± 2.1 mL/s in the scrotal group and 14.3 ± 3.0 mL/s in the control group ($P = 0.0352$). A good therapeutic effect was achieved in 24 (52.2%) patients in the scrotal group and 16 (31.4%) in the control group ($P = 0.042$).

The average urinary flow rate was 8.4 ± 2.3 mL/s in the scrotal group and 7.5 ± 1.5 mL/s in the control group ($P = 0.019$). A good therapeutic effect was achieved in 34 (73.9%) patients in the scrotal group and 25 (49.0%) in the control group ($P = 0.014$).

Multivariable analyses

The multivariable analyses showed that compared with the prepuce flap one-stage surgery, the scrotal flap two-stage surgery was independently associated with a higher maximal urinary flow rate (OR = 2.416, 95%CI: 1.026-5.689, $P = 0.044$, Supplementary Table 2) and with a higher average urinary flow rate (OR = 2.484, 95%CI: 1.054-5.854, $P = 0.038$, Supplementary Table 3).

Complications

Three patients had a complete neourethral stricture in the scrotal group compared with one in the control group ($P = 0.259$). Three patients in the scrotal group had a fistula, compared with 12 in the control group ($P = 0.021$). The number of patients with meatal stenosis was two in the scrotal group and nine in the control group ($P = 0.039$). There was no significant difference in the occurrence of diverticulitis between the two groups (3 vs 2, $P = 0.563$).

A typical case

A 24-year-old male patient was diagnosed with proximal penile hypospadias. He underwent surgery about ten years before admission, but he was not satisfied with his appearance (Figure 1A), and he could not urinate well (Figure 1B). We conducted a two-stage operation in this patient. In the first surgery, the fabricated urethra from ten years ago was removed, and two mucosal strips (1.2 cm × 4.5 cm) were harvested. After one year, he underwent the second surgery (Figure 1C and D). He was followed for 30 mo (Figure 1E and F). The ultrasound images are shown in Figure 2A and B. Before the operation, there was stenosis of the urethra (Figure 2A), which was relieved at 30 mo after the second operation (Figure 2B). The MRI findings are shown in Figure 2C and D.

DISCUSSION

Complex hypospadias is a surgical challenge^[15-17]. This study aimed to present the long-term outcomes of two-stage repair of complex hypospadias using a scrotal septal flap. The results suggest that the scrotal septal flap could be a versatile and reliable option for resurfacing the penis in adult patients with complex hypospadias.

In 1985, Li *et al*^[22] used for the first time a scrotal septal flap to repair hypospadias. Since that time, the scrotal septal flap has been extensively used in Asia. Anterior scrotal artery branches from the superficial external pudendal arteries connect with the posterior scrotal artery to form an interconnecting circulation in the scrotal skin. Both anterior and posterior scrotal arteries could act as a scrotal septal vascular pedicle flap (Figure 3A). In 2009, Carrera *et al*^[23] studied scrotal microvascularization and applied the findings to the design of reliable skin flaps for complex urethral reconstruction. They found that the special anatomical distribution of the scrotal branches stemming from the perineal arteries enables the construction of adequate, reliable longitudinal median island scrotal flaps for hypospadias reconstructive surgery.

Initially, Li *et al*^[22] used the scrotal septal flap to create a new urethra. However, this method had many issues, such as hair growing inside the urethra, urethral stenosis, and calculi. Most surgeons currently utilize the scrotal septal flap to cover the wound of the penis or to reconstruct the penis. In the present study, we used the scrotal septal flap to cover the wound in a two-stage hypospadias repair. A scrotal septal pedicle flap was used instead of a random flap to achieve a reliable blood supply. The mean size of the flap was 2.8 cm × 3.4 cm, which was enough to cover the wound. For many patients, hair in the midline of the scrotum was observed, which, when the flap was transferred to the penis, might influence cosmetic satisfaction, but without affecting the function. Laser hair removal could help solve such a problem.

The dartos is a thin sheet of smooth muscle closely associated with the skin of the scrotum. It plays a substantial role in the thermoregulation of the scrotum. When the temperature is extremely low, the tunica dartos muscle contracts, causing the scrotal skin to wrinkle and leading to a smaller heat loss^[24,25]. In 1996, Maloney *et al*^[25] reported that the dartos is innervated by a sympathetic branch of the autonomic nervous system. Theoretically, the sympathetic branch cannot be controlled by the patient's will, but some stimuli can trigger the contraction. In the present study, we observed that micturition could trigger the contraction. Hence, this contraction could provide pressure on the urethra to reduce the residual urine, but further research is required to examine this issue.

The main complications observed in the present study were urethral fistulae. Three patients in the scrotal group and 12 in the control group had to undergo re-operations to repair the fistula. When mucosal cells have covered the fistula's wall, conservative treatment is not feasible (Figure 3B). Thus, during surgery to repair the fistula, the surgeon needs to remove the fistula's mucosal wall and suture the surrounding mucosal layer to close the fistula. The subcutaneous tissue and skin of the transferred scrotal flap are flexible, so it is easy to free them to form new waterproof layers. In the one-stage operation, there is only one waterproof layer formed by the prepuce (Figure 3C). In the present study, the scrotal septal flap transfer will form a second waterproof layer (Figure 3D). The two layers can reduce the risk of fistula and facilitate the repair of a fistula since more tissue is available. The limitation of the scrotal septal flap is that for scrotal and perineum hypospadias, the flap does not exist. For these patients, a random scrotal flap is another option. For children who underwent the first surgery in preadolescence, further research is essential to investigate penile development, psychosexual function, and reproductive ability, as well as eventual secondary repair in adulthood. Cruz-Diaz *et al*^[26] reviewed the



Figure 1 Surgical procedure. A: Pre-operative view; B: Pre-operative view in urination; C: One year after the first surgery; D: The scrotal septal flap was harvested; E and F: Thirty months after the second operation. The patient could urinate well.

evolution of the use of buccal mucosa grafts in hypospadias repair with urethral stricture. Three patients in the scrotal group had a complete neourethral stricture. The main reason was that the grafted oral mucosa did not survive well. These three patients had undergone previous surgical treatment. The scar tissues in the penis probably affected the blood supply, which probably affected survival of the oral mucosa.

Therefore, the two-stage hypospadias repair using oral mucosa to repair the urethra and a scrotal septal flap to repair the penis had a good therapeutic effect, resulting in restored urinary function and cosmetic appearance. In addition, the complication rate was lower than in patients who underwent a one-stage procedure with a prepuce flap. Liu *et al*^[18] reported good outcomes using a penile flap to reconstruct the urethra and a scrotal septal flap to reconstruct the penis. A one-stage repair using oral mucosa to repair the urethra and a scrotal septal flap to repair the penis has been suggested by Chen *et al*^[27] and achieved good therapeutic effects. However, cases of early urinary leakage were observed. The two-stage hypospadias repair using oral mucosa to repair the urethra and a scrotal septal flap to repair the penis was also analyzed by Pandey *et al*^[28] in patients with complex hypospadias, who reported good therapeutic effects and few complications. However, a control group was not included in the study. Using the same approach, Zhang *et al*^[29] reported its success in patients with several previous failed surgeries. Nevertheless, additional studies are necessary to verify whether this method could be optimized and improved.

This study has limitations. There is no objective and precise method to determine the cosmetic result of hypospadias treatment. Patient satisfaction is crucial but could not be assessed because satisfaction data were not reliably written in the charts. The specimen weight could not be analyzed. The sample size was small. In our hospital, we focused on the two-stage repair of hypospadias, and our skill with one-stage surgery is more limited, which could have affected the results of the present study. Multicenter prospective trials are necessary to address these issues.

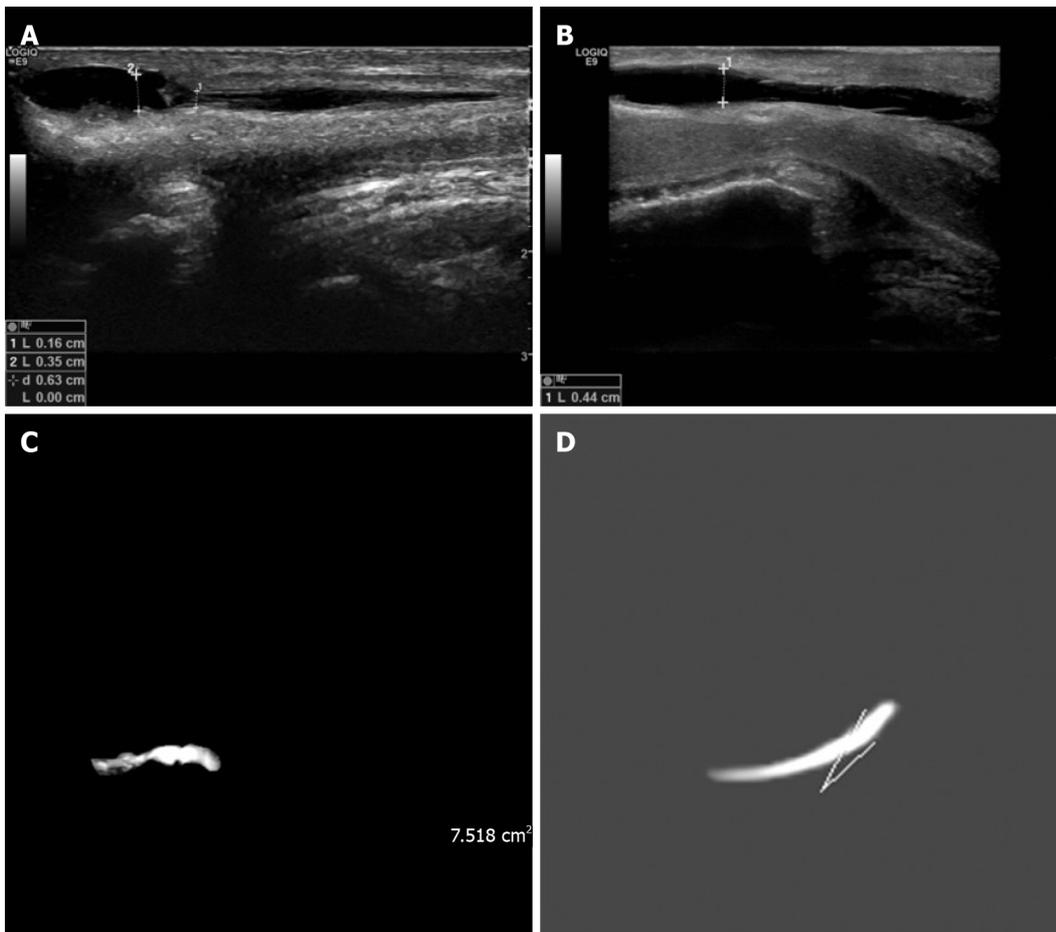
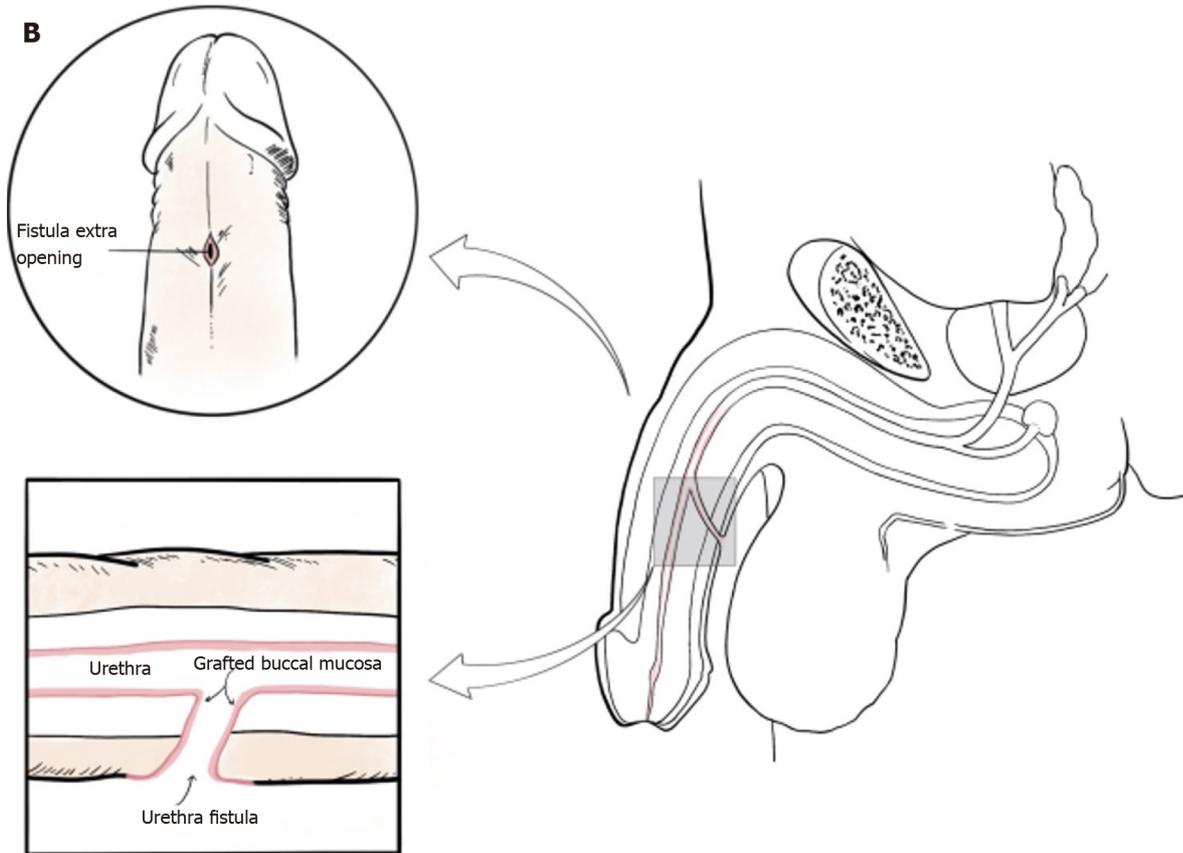
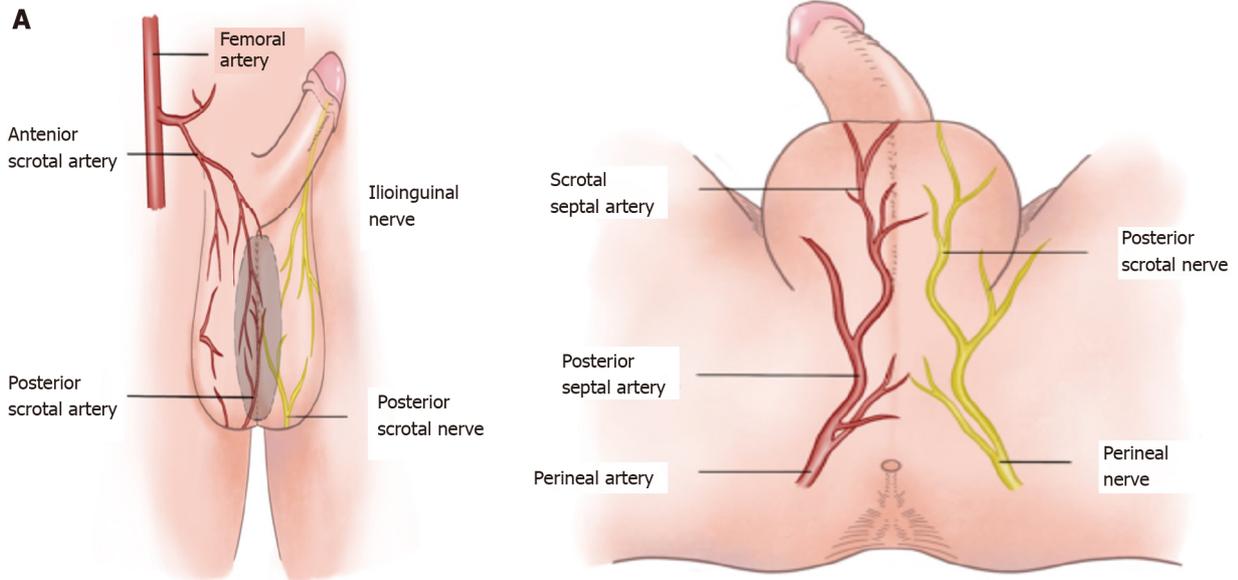


Figure 2 Ultrasound display of the urethra. A: Pre-operative view. There was obvious stenosis of the urethra; B: Thirty months after the second operation; C and D: Magnetic resonance imaging of the urethra.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the scrotal septal flap could be a versatile and reliable option for resurfacing the penis in patients undergoing complex hypospadias repair. It could be especially suitable for re-operative hypospadias in which prepuce tissue is limited. This flap fully respects Gillies' principle of "replacing like with like" and could achieve an ideal result both functionally and cosmetically.



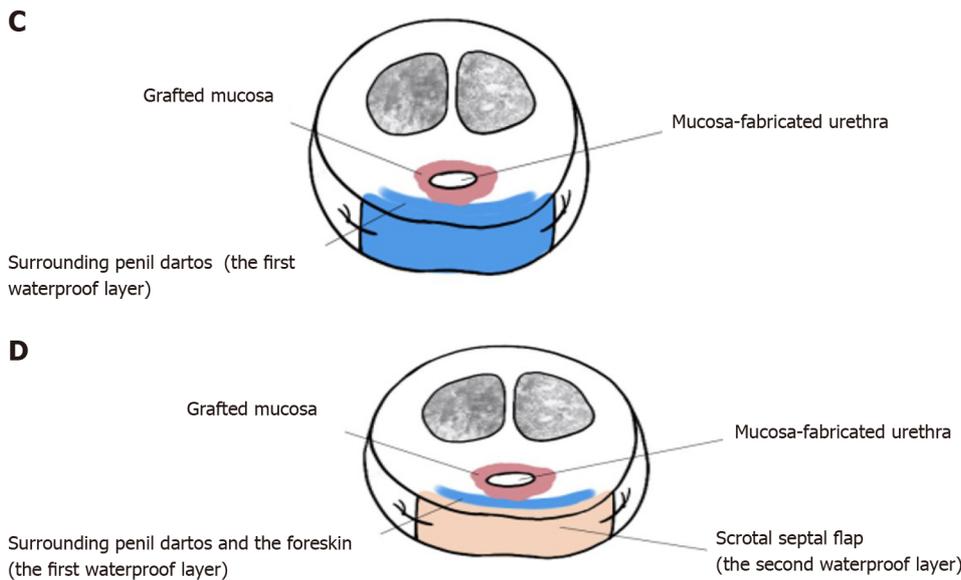


Figure 3 Illustration of the surgical procedure. A: Vessel distribution and innervation of the scrotal septal flap; B: The operation was necessary to remove the mucosal wall of the urethral fistula; C: There is only one waterproof layer after one-stage surgery; D: There are two waterproof layers and enough tissue for fistula repair after the two-stage surgery.

ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTS

Research background

Complex hypospadias is a surgical challenge and all kinds of graft tissues have several disadvantages.

Research motivation

A scrotal septal pedicle flap was used instead of a random flap to achieve a reliable blood supply.

Research objectives

To present the long-term outcomes of two-stage repair of complex hypospadias using a scrotal septal flap.

Research methods

This retrospective study included patients with complex hypospadias using a scrotal septal flap or prepuce flap, and compared the maximal/average urinary flow rates after surgery.

Research results

The maximal urinary flow rate, average urinary flow rate and the proportion of patients achieving good therapeutic effects were higher in the scrotal group. The scrotal flap two-stage surgery was independently associated with a higher maximal urinary flow rate and a higher average flow rate.

Research conclusions

The scrotal septal flap could be a versatile and reliable option for resurfacing the penis in patients undergoing complex hypospadias repair.

Research perspectives

This flap could be especially suitable for re-operative hypospadias in which prepuce tissue is limited.

REFERENCES

- 1 **Schneuer FJ**, Holland AJ, Pereira G, Bower C, Nassar N. Prevalence, repairs and complications of

- hypospadias: an Australian population-based study. *Arch Dis Child* 2015; **100**: 1038-1043 [PMID: 26310454 DOI: 10.1136/archdischild-2015-308809]
- 2 **Paulozzi LJ**. International trends in rates of hypospadias and cryptorchidism. *Environ Health Perspect* 1999; **107**: 297-302 [PMID: 10090709 DOI: 10.1289/ehp.99107297]
 - 3 **Baskin LS**, Ebberts MB. Hypospadias: anatomy, etiology, and technique. *J Pediatr Surg* 2006; **41**: 463-472 [PMID: 16516617 DOI: 10.1016/j.jpedsurg.2005.11.059]
 - 4 **Leung AK**, Robson WL. Hypospadias: an update. *Asian J Androl* 2007; **9**: 16-22 [PMID: 17187155 DOI: 10.1111/j.1745-7262.2007.00243.x]
 - 5 **Radmayr C**, Bogaert G, Dogan HS; European Society for Paediatric Urology and European Association of Urology (ESPU/EAU). Guidelines on Paediatric Urology. 2019
 - 6 **Marrocco G**, Grammatico P, Vallasciani S, Gulia C, Zangari A, Marrocco F, Bateni ZH, Porrello A, Piergentili R. Environmental, parental and gestational factors that influence the occurrence of hypospadias in male patients. *J Pediatr Urol* 2015; **11**: 12-19 [PMID: 25725611 DOI: 10.1016/j.jpuro.2014.10.003]
 - 7 **van der Zanden LF**, van Rooij IA, Feitz WF, Franke B, Knoers NV, Roeleveld N. Aetiology of hypospadias: a systematic review of genes and environment. *Hum Reprod Update* 2012; **18**: 260-283 [PMID: 22371315 DOI: 10.1093/humupd/dms002]
 - 8 **Springer A**. Assessment of outcome in hypospadias surgery - a review. *Front Pediatr* 2014; **2**: 2 [PMID: 24479107 DOI: 10.3389/fped.2014.00002]
 - 9 **Marrocco G**, Vallasciani S, Fiocca G, Calisti A. Hypospadias surgery: a 10-year review. *Pediatr Surg Int* 2004; **20**: 200-203 [PMID: 15083330 DOI: 10.1007/s00383-004-1147-1]
 - 10 **Shukla AK**, Singh AP, Sharma P, Shukla J. Two Stages Repair of Proximal Hypospadias: Review of 700 Cases. *J Indian Assoc Pediatr Surg* 2017; **22**: 158-162 [PMID: 28694573 DOI: 10.4103/0971-9261.207627]
 - 11 **Kulkarni SB**, Joglekar O, Alkandari MH, Joshi PM. Redo hypospadias surgery: current and novel techniques. *Res Rep Urol* 2018; **10**: 117-126 [PMID: 30320039 DOI: 10.2147/RRU.S142989]
 - 12 **Calonge WM**, Sapino G. An Overview of Hypospadias Surgery. In Amr S (ed) *Issues in Flap Surgery*. London: IntechOpen 2018 [DOI: 10.5772/intechopen.69924]
 - 13 **van der Horst HJ**, de Wall LL. Hypospadias, all there is to know. *Eur J Pediatr* 2017; **176**: 435-441 [PMID: 28190103 DOI: 10.1007/s00431-017-2864-5]
 - 14 **Aldamandori R**, Chapple CR. Management of the patient with failed hypospadias surgery presenting in adulthood. *F1000Res* 2017; **6**: 1890 [PMID: 29263781 DOI: 10.12688/f1000research.11980.1]
 - 15 **Fam MM**, Hanna MK. Resurfacing the Penis of Complex Hypospadias Repair ("Hypospadias Cripples"). *J Urol* 2017; **197**: 859-864 [PMID: 28131500 DOI: 10.1016/j.juro.2016.09.075]
 - 16 **Elia R**, Pafitanis G, Ciudad P, Chen HC. Accessory penis: A rare method of peno-urethral separation of sexual function and voiding following successful complex hypospadias reconstruction with a free ileum flap. *Arch Plast Surg* 2019; **46**: 381-385 [PMID: 31336427 DOI: 10.5999/aps.2018.00689]
 - 17 **Weiser AC**, Franco I, Herz DB, Silver RI, Reda EF. Single layered small intestinal submucosa in the repair of severe chordee and complicated hypospadias. *J Urol* 2003; **170**: 1593-5; discussion 1595 [PMID: 14501669 DOI: 10.1097/01.ju.0000083863.01634.e1]
 - 18 **Liu X**, Li Y, Li S, Tang Y, Li Q. A new use of scrotal septal skin flap in repairing hypospadias. *Ann Plast Surg* 2011; **67**: 164-166 [PMID: 21407073 DOI: 10.1097/SAP.0b013e3181cc2aa1]
 - 19 **Elder JS**, Duckett JW, Snyder HM. Onlay island flap in the repair of mid and distal penile hypospadias without chordee. *J Urol* 1987; **138**: 376-379 [PMID: 3599258 DOI: 10.1016/s0022-5347(17)43152-1]
 - 20 Chapter 43: Hypospadias. In Rodriguez ED, Losee JE, Neligan PC, Liu DZ (eds): *Plastic Surgery. Craniofacial, Head and Neck Surgery. Pediatric Plastic Surgery*. Dublin: Elsevier, 2012
 - 21 **International Continence Society**. ICS 2019 Standards. Bristol: International Continence Society, 2019
 - 22 **Li SY**, Li SK, Zhuang HX. The use of scrotal septal neurovascular pedicle island skin flap in one-stage repair of hypospadias. *Ann Plast Surg* 1985; **15**: 529-533 [PMID: 3880204 DOI: 10.1097/0000637-198512000-00012]
 - 23 **Carrera A**, Gil-Vernet A, Forcada P, Morro R, Llusa M, Arango O. Arteries of the scrotum: a microvascular study and its application to urethral reconstruction with scrotal flaps. *BJU Int* 2009; **103**: 820-824 [PMID: 19016690 DOI: 10.1111/j.1464-410X.2008.08167.x]
 - 24 **Waites GM**. Thermoregulation of the scrotum and testis: studies in animals and significance for man. *Adv Exp Med Biol* 1991; **286**: 9-17 [PMID: 2042522 DOI: 10.1007/978-1-4684-5913-5_2]
 - 25 **Maloney SK**, Mitchell D. Regulation of ram scrotal temperature during heat exposure, cold exposure, fever and exercise. *J Physiol* 1996; **496** (Pt 2): 421-430 [PMID: 8910226 DOI: 10.1113/jphysiol.1996.sp021695]
 - 26 **Cruz-Diaz O**, Castellán M, Gosalbez R. Use of buccal mucosa in hypospadias repair. *Curr Urol Rep* 2013; **14**: 366-372 [PMID: 23686357 DOI: 10.1007/s11934-013-0334-9]
 - 27 **Chen W**, Li S, Li Y, Li Q. [Combined buccal mucosal graft and scrotal flap for reconstruction of urethra in primary hypospadias repair]. *Zhongguo Xiu Fu Chong Jian Wai Ke Za Zhi* 2009; **23**: 663-665 [PMID: 19594010]
 - 28 **Pandey A**, Barta-Kelemen AM, Borisenkov M, Keller H. The Staged Urethroplasty with Vascularised Scrotal Flap and Buccal Mucosa Graft after Failed Hypospadias Surgery: A Reliable Technique with a Novel Tool. *Urol Int* 2017; **99**: 36-42 [PMID: 28285314 DOI: 10.1159/000464107]
 - 29 **Zhang S**, Zhou C, Li F, Li S, Zhou Y, Li Q. Scrotal-Septal Fasciocutaneous Flap Used as a

Multifunctional Coverage for Prior Failed Hypospadias Repair. *Urol Int* 2016; **96**: 255-259 [PMID: 26895331 DOI: 10.1159/000444331]



Published by **Baishideng Publishing Group Inc**
7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite 160, Pleasanton, CA 94566, USA
Telephone: +1-925-3991568
E-mail: bpgoffice@wjgnet.com
Help Desk: <https://www.f6publishing.com/helpdesk>
<https://www.wjgnet.com>

