

### **Response to reviewers**

Reviewer #1: The acronym ADL (text line 53) is not described in the text.

**Answer: We added the definition “activities of daily living” for ADL, as per your suggestion.**

Reviewer #2:

Scientific Quality: Grade D (Fair)

Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing)

Conclusion: Rejection

Specific Comments to Authors:

1.The study examined only 18 patients who underwent surgery via the Kakinuma method for POP.

Would it be better to increase the subjects?

**Answer: Thank you for this suggestion. The revised manuscript includes additional cases.**

2.I hope you can make a longer-term observation of the efficacy.

**Answer: This is an excellent suggestion. Unfortunately, no final long-term analyses are available as this project is ongoing; however, we have updated the manuscript to include our most recent data.**

3.You'd better quote references from the last 5 years in order to reflect the latest developments.

**Answer: As you pointed out, we added references.**

Reviewer #3:

Scientific Quality: Grade C (Good)

Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing)

Conclusion: Minor revision

Specific Comments to Authors:

Line 51: Please, delete this first word "minutes" from this sentence "surgical duration was 135.0 ± 28.1 (88–148 minutes) minutes".

**Answer: Thank you. The suggested correction was made.**

Line 76: "women who have experienced childbirth [1]". Please, you may add the word "vaginal" to be "experienced vaginal childbirth".

**Answer: Thank you. This correction was made.**

Line 98: Please, you may delete "in recent years" from this sentence "satisfactory outcomes of laparoscopic Shull method have also been reported in recent years [10]." as the reference year is

2000.

**Answer: This was corrected, as suggested.**

Line 104: "round ligaments, which are histologically strong tissues", Please, add why it is strong ligament?. You may add the following anatomical consideration: Hegazy (2014) stated the round ligament gains some muscle fibers during prenatal development. This may be the reason for its strength. Both the round ligament of the uterus and the ligament of the ovaries arise as a derivative of the gubernaculum that contracts leading to the descent of the ovaries into the pelvis, but does not extend further as it happens with the testes in males. This is due to the fact that the gubernaculum is developmentally connected to the cornu of the uterus that divides it into two parts: the round ligament of the uterus, which connects it to the labium majus (passing through the inguinal canal), and the ovarian ligament, which passes from the ovary to the uterus. Hegazy A. Clinical embryology for medical students and postgraduate doctors. Lap Lambert Academic Publishing; 2014. Please, change the verbs in legends of figures to the past instead of the present.

**Answer: The statement "round ligaments, which are histologically strong tissues," includes a reference in the revised manuscript as per your suggestion. While we were unable to find the study by Hegazy (2014), similar references were added.**

Reviewer #4:

Scientific Quality: Grade B (Very good)

Language Quality: Grade C (A great deal of language polishing)

Conclusion: Major revision

Specific Comments to Authors: I have read the present manuscript that describes a new technique-Kakinuma method with a great interest. A great deal of issues have to be addressed before the publication of this case series.

1. Abstract: remove the duplication of measurements in results (times, kg/m<sup>2</sup> etc). Explain abbreviations (ADL)

**Answer: This was corrected. Thank you for your careful reading of our manuscript.**

2. Core tip: Rephrase Core tip giving emphasize to your technique and not the disadvantages of mesh using.

**Answer: The Core tip was rephrased, as the reviewer suggested.**

3. Introduction: Rephrase the last paragraph and emphasize the aim of the study which is the efficacy and safety of the described technique.

**Answer: As suggested, we revised the manuscript to better highlight the main study aim (i.e.,**

**determining the efficacy and safety of the Kakinuma method).**

4. Results: Please cite the POP-Q classification in order to facilitate the reader to find the classification. As Table 2 contains no comparison and simply displays the results I would prefer to remove the Table and describe the results in the text.

**Answer: Table 2 was deleted. We also included the POP-Q classification in the revised manuscript.**

5. Discussion: Add references to lines 153-157

**Answer: We added references to lines 153–157.**

6. Add more limitations. a) The lack of a control group for comparisons, b) the results are from a single institution etc.

**Answer: Thank you for pointing this out. As mentioned in the Discussion section, this work is preliminary; we are accumulating additional cases and conducting long-term postoperative follow-ups. In the future, we plan to compare this method with other NTR-based approaches for patients with pelvic organ prolapse.**

7. A language revision is needed.

**Answer: The revised manuscript was proofread by a native-English-speaking Editage editor prior to resubmission.**