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Letter to the Editor

Letter to the Editor on "Simple Anatomical Closure-SAC" for distal hypospadias repair without glans wings dissection: Technical description and preliminary results

Dear Editor,

I read with great interest the article by Dr Hakalmaz et al., "Simple Anatomical Closure-SAC" for distal hypospadias repair without glans wings dissection: Technical description and preliminary results" [1]. I have some comments and questions intended to clarify and help journal readers better understand the anatomical aspects of this technique.

1. Some readers may find the descriptions "limited distal urethral spongious tissue dissection" and "preservation of spongious continuity and the glanular attachments" confusing. To clarify these descriptions, it might be helpful if the authors explained how the corpus spongiosum terminates in normal anatomy and what its relationship is to the glans penis and the glanular urethra. In addition, a brief explanation of the anatomy and functional significance of the navicular fossa could improve the reader's understanding.
2. Although the authors' selection criteria included a wide glans and wide ventral glanular/periurethral triangles to easily accommodate an 8/10 FR urethral catheter, 39 of 43 patients still required an incision of the urethral plate (glans). In 18 patients, they also had to perform a preputial graft. Despite the favorable selection criteria, was a glans incision and/or preputial graft necessary due to a technical issue with the width of the deepithelialized triangles?
3. This technique avoids glans dissection, but the glans is incised and grafted in the midline. I would like to draw the authors' attention to the observed erectile dysfunction after internal urethrotomies, which are anatomically identical to a midline incision of the glans [2]. Therefore, it would be helpful if the authors could explain the tissue characteristics of the urethral plate on the glans and indicate which tissue is transected during a deep/superficial incision.
4. It would also be helpful if the authors could clarify what the glanular triangles represent anatomically and/or what do glanular de-epithelialized tissues anatomically reconstruct? It remains unclear whether the technique aims at "glans fusion" using de-epithelialized glans surfaces or at the creation of a "septum" (septum glandis) between the wings of the glans.

The reasons for choosing a new technique over a traditional one should be explained based on anatomy, pathophysiology, and surgical-functional results. The anatomical aspects are crucial for understanding a well-described surgical technique and its reproducibility. There are many publications from the authors' institution (Istanbul University) that contain clear descriptions of the anatomy of the glans penis and glanular urethra, which are consistent with the authors' objectives and may be useful to the authors [3—5].

Declaration of generative AI

Generative AI and AI-assisted technologies were NOT used in the preparation of this work.

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Conflict of interest

None.

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