

Correspondence

Factors influencing the occurrence of pelvic cellulitis in women undergoing laparoscopic-assisted vaginal hysterectomy

To the Editors:

We read Chang and colleagues' report, entitled "An analysis of risk factors for postoperative pelvic cellulitis after laparoscopic-assisted vaginal hysterectomy", with interest [1]. This paper provided useful information to identify the risk factors that contributed to postoperative pelvic infection (pelvic cellulitis). These risk factors included bad general physical status, for example, presence of the systemic diseases or higher American Society of Anesthesiologists physical status scale (ASA class II or more) with a sixfold increase in risk, and pelvic adhesion with a twofold increase in risk. However, we did not understand why the prolonged hospital stay was defined as a risk factor to increase pelvic cellulitis. Therefore, the content of Table 3 needs verification. Of course, patients with higher ASA, for example ASA II, might need more time for preoperative preparation, which might increase the total hospital stay. Therefore, it would be better to define the hospital stay before and after the surgery; that is to say, the total days of hospital stay should be separated from the operative day and preoperative stay and postoperative stay should be recorded independently. We guess that the patients with cellulitis may have a longer postoperative stay, since they needed additional care for this complication—pelvic cellulitis. In fact, the authors also mentioned that women with postoperative pelvic cellulitis had a significantly increased length of hospital stay. Therefore, prolonged hospital stay is not the cause (risk factor); by contrast, it is a result, secondary to increasing needs of postoperative care.

Disclosure statement

No benefit of any kind will be received either directly or indirectly by the authors.

References

- [1] Chang WC, Hsieh CH, Lin CC, Lin WC, Hung YC, We WC. An analysis of risk factors for postoperative pelvic cellulitis after laparoscopic-assisted vaginal hysterectomy. *Taiwan J Obstet Gynecol* 2011;50:463–7.

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