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# Laparoscopic inguinal hernia repair—a prospective personal series of 542 children

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### Abstract

#### Purpose

This series prospectively evaluates a consecutive personal series of children undergoing laparoscopic hernia repair.

#### Methods

A total of 712 inguinal hernias were corrected laparoscopically in 542 children (396 boys and 146 girls, aged 4 days to 14 years, median 1.6 years). The internal inguinal ring was closed with a 4-0 nonabsorbable suture using 2-mm instruments. Patients were prospectively video-documented.

#### Results

There were no serious intraoperative complications. Operating time was comparable to open surgery. The contralateral inner ring was open on the left side in 16% of boys and 12% of girls, and on the right side in 18% of boys and 32% of girls. Direct hernias were found in 2.3%, femoral hernias in 1%, hernias en pantalon in 0.7%, and a combination of indirect and femoral hernia in 0.2%. Follow-up to date is 1-84 months (median 39 months). There were 4.1% hernia recurrences, 0.7% hydroceles and 0.2% testicular atrophies. Cosmesis is excellent.

## Conclusions

Laparoscopic inguinal hernia repair can be a routine procedure with results comparable to those of open procedures. It is well suited for recurrences. The vas remains untouched. The visualization of structures is clear and leads to a defect-specific closure. The advantages of the laparoscopic approach include the following: its technical ease, it is an outpatient procedure, the cord structures remain untouched, the type of hernia is obvious, trocar placement is identical for any side or hernia type, clear visualization of the anatomy. Routine video documentation renders the diagnostic accuracy objective and absolute. Finally, recurrences are easier dealt with, be it from a previous open or from a laparoscopic approach. Although recurrences were slightly more frequent in the early stages, now they are closer to the rate with the open procedure.



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## Index words

Laparoscopic inguinal hernia repair; Laparoscopic herniorrhaphy; Inguinal hernia; Inguinal hernia in children

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