ABSTRACT

PURPOSE: About 40 years have passed since tension-free mesh hernioplasty was introduced in Japan, but ambulatory hernia repair is still rare. Miyazaki Hernia Clinic, opened in April 2003, was the first to perform ambulatory hernia repair in Japan. In this presentation, we report the analysis of more than 400 tension-free mesh repairs at the Miyazaki Hernia Clinic.

METHODS: From April 2003 to November 2004, 414 inguinal hernia repairs have been performed through the Miyazaki Hernia Clinic, Sapporo, Japan. Epidural anesthesia or local anesthesia are routinely used which permit the patient to be discharged within about 3–5 hours following conclusion of the repair. All repairs and all anesthesia are performed by the author. The clinic has recorded information for all operations regarding the types of hernia, the types of repair, operation time, complications, postoperative recovery, and recurrences.

RESULTS: There were 297 indirect, 54 direct, 9 paraesophageal, 11 femoral, 6 inguinal + femoral and 37 recurrent hernias. For primary inguinal hernia, we mainly performed Kugel Patch repair (n=319) and Procare Hernia System repair (n=62). For recurrent hernia and femoral hernia, we mainly performed Plug & Patch repair (n=32). The operation time was 38 ± 8 min in all repairs. Twenty-five cases out of all the repairs had postoperative seroma formation. Postoperative hospital duration was 4 ± 1 hours. The success rate of ambulatory repair was 100%.

CONCLUSIONS: Patients in Japan urgently need and strongly desire ambulatory hernia repair performed in the same manner as that performed in the west. The proliferation and expansion of ambulatory hernia repair, like that of the west, is desperately needed throughout Japan.