

The use of allografts in the surgical treatment of enlarged hiatal hernias

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Abstract

The use of allografts in the surgical treatment of enlarged hiatal hernias is a current hot topic of discussion. Using meshes in order to strengthen the hiatus of the esophagus is an efficient procedure which reduces the risk of recurrences. In order to consolidate the initial surgical treatment of the enlarged hiatal hernias, polypropylene, polytetrafluoroethylene and biomaterial meshes are mainly used. There are ongoing discussions with regards to the use of meshes, their type and positioning. Although mesh usage is associated with a low recurrence rate, numerous authors have described complications such as: meshes migrating into the esophagus (caused by the alloplastic material used in the hiatoplasty), strictures, dysphagia, ulcers or perforations. From experience, the mesh used in the surgical treatment of hiatal hernia should preferably be non-biological and must be placed circumferentially, while firmly grounded at the pillar of the diaphragm. The correct placing of the mesh lowers the risk of strictures and degradation. Further prospective studies are needed in order to clarify the best method of surgically treating enlarged hiatal hernias.

Key words: enlarged hiatal hernia, allograft, complications

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