

# Vesicourethral anastomosis using V-Loc™ barbed suture during robot-assisted radical prostatectomy

Stephen Chapman, Rafał Turo, William Cross

St. James's University Hospital, Department of Urology, Leeds, Great Britain

## KEY WORDS

vesicourethral anastomosis ▶ radical prostatectomy ▶ barbed suture

## ABSTRACT

In Europe, localized prostate cancer (PCa) is increasingly treated by robot-assisted radical prostatectomy. This minimally invasive procedure is technically evolving, with benefits to both the patient and surgeon. One of the final steps of the operation is the formation of a watertight vesicourethral anastomosis (VUA). A sub-optimal anastomosis can lead to serious consequences, including acute urinary leak, ileus, prolonged hospitalization and catheterization, urethral stricture, and urinary incontinence. It is therefore highly desirable to develop a simple, reproducible and dependable technique for VUA formation. We report a VUA formation technique using a unidirectional barbed suture (3-0 V-Loc™ 180 absorbable suture, Covidien, Dublin, Ireland).

## DISCUSSION

Application of the V-Loc™ suture in VUA formation offers a number of advantages over non-barbed sutures. Specifically, the tissues of the bladder neck and urethra are opposed and secured in position after each needle passage, reducing the need for repeated suture tightening and tissue traction. This technique reduces the operative time and is technically easier, which is of benefit to the surgeon learning robot-assisted radical prostatectomy [1, 2].

## REFERENCES

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2. Williams SB, Alemozaffar M, Lei Y, et al: *Randomized controlled trial of barbed polyglyconate versus polyglactin suture for robot-assisted laparoscopic prostatectomy anastomosis: technique and outcomes.* Eur Urol 2010; 58 (6): 875-881.

## TECHNIQUE

The VUA is formed using a V-Loc™ suture starting at the 5-o'clock position on the bladder neck and continued hemi-circumferentially from right to left, to the 11-o'clock position on the bladder and urethra. After each needle passage, the mucosa of the bladder and urethra are approximated. The anastomosis is then completed with a second suture, starting at the 5-o'clock position and continuing in a counter-clockwise fashion until the sutures meet at 11-o'clock. There was no need to knot the two sutures.

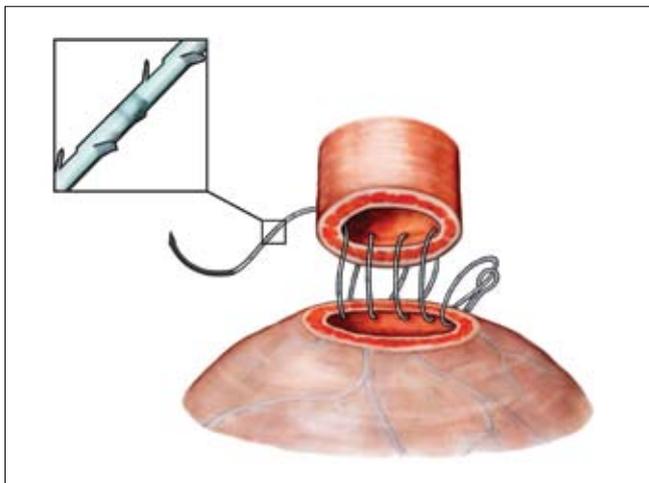


Fig. 1. Application of the V-loc™ suture in VUA formation.

## Correspondence

Rafał Turo  
Department of Urology  
St. James's University Hospital  
Leeds, LS9 7TF, Great Britain  
phone: +44 113 2433144  
rturo7@yahoo.com