CONCOMITANT ANTERIOR PROLAPSE AND STRESS INCONTINENCE REPAIR WITH THE APPLICATION OF LABIAL FIBROADIPOSE FLAP (MARTIUS FLAP): A PILOT STUDY IN 19 WOMEN
1st Department of Urology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece

Introduction and Objective: Labial fibroadipose flap, also known as Martius flap, is an autologus adjunct to primary or secondary vaginal reconstructive surgery. This study aims at determining whether this tissue can be a reliable alternative to synthetic material in treating anterior prolapse with coexisting stress urinary incontinence in women.

Methods: 19 women 46-80 years old with Grade I-II cystocele and genuine stress incontinence gave appropriate informed consent and were treated with formal anterior repair. A Martius flap was prepared from the left major labium and was longitudinally divided into two parts. The posterior part was interposed between fascial stitches and vaginal mucosa to enforce the anterior repair. The anterior part was properly anchored to the paraurethral fascia, to support the midurethra and bladder neck. The continence status was evaluated with the ICIQ-SF questionnaire and urodynamics prior and six months after the operation. Statistical analysis was done with the Wilcoxon non-parametric test.

Results: Preoperative ICIQ score ranged between 13 and 20 (median=17) while postoperative range was between 2 and 8 (median=5) (p<0.001). In the preoperative urodynamics stress incontinence was objectively demonstrable in all the patients either spontaneously or after cystocele reduction. Detrusor overactivity was present in 5 patients. At six months mild stress incontinence presented in 4 patients with no de-novo overactivity; all other urodynamic parameters did not change at a statistically significant degree. The vaginal wounds healed normally with no cystocele relapse. In the sexually active patients mild dispareunia was reported in 2 cases.

Conclusions: Martius flap is an autologus, vascularised tissue segment that can easily be mobilized to the vaginal operating field. Due to its vascularity it can sustain its support long enough until fibrous tissue development. Our primary results are encouraging and if they stand long enough, labial fibroadipose flap could prove a reliable and cost-effective alternative to synthetic material or xenografts.