Oral Antibiotics to Prevent Postoperative Urinary Tract Infection: A Randomized Controlled Trial

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1. How do you assess postvoid residuals in your institution following sling or prolapse surgery? What criteria do you use to establish whether a patient needs ongoing catheterization, or not? How is this similar or different from the protocol discussed in the manuscript?

2. Discuss your institution’s current management of women who have ongoing catheter dependence following either midurethral sling or pelvic organ prolapse surgery. Are patients who require ongoing bladder drainage after surgery given routine antibiotics?

3. Discuss the differences in interventions in the two arms. What was the timeframe of the intervention? What happened to women who required more than 7 days of catheterization?

4. Various methods have been proposed to decrease urinary tract infections at the time of gynecologic surgery. Discuss the pros and cons of various interventions including special catheters, use of clean self-intermittent catheterization, indwelling catheters, and suprapubic catheters.

5. The authors conclude that antibiotic prophylaxis does not reduce the risk of postoperative urinary tract infection following reconstructive surgery. Discuss what timeframe this conclusion refers to. Review a recent Cochrane review that discusses antibiotic prophylaxis for short-term catheterization in adults and the role of antibiotic prophylaxis (Lusardi G, Lipp A, Shaw C. Antibiotic prophylaxis for short-term catheter bladder drainage in adults. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2013, Issue 7. Art. No.: CD005428. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD005428.pub2). How do the Cochrane Review’s conclusions differ from the present article? How are the patient populations similar or dissimilar?

6. Discuss the appropriateness of the choice of the primary outcome measure in this study. What is the difference between a culture-proven urinary tract infection and a diagnosis that is based on symptoms? How might an indwelling catheter or self-intermittent catheterization affect patient report of symptoms of urinary tract infection? Do you think that the conclusions would have been different if the authors had limited the comparison to culture-proven urinary tract infections?

7. This trial was registered with a clinical trials web site. Visit the trial’s registry on the Clinicaltrials.gov web site. Are there any discrepancies in what is reported in this manuscript and what is reporting online? What was the time period on the registry in which this trial was conducted? Why is registration of randomized trials required, and what value do they bring to the research community and the quality of evidence?