

Laparoscopic-guided TVT placement after prior colpo-suspension

Anna Pitsillidi¹, Laura Vona², Günter Karl Noé^{1,3}

¹Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Rheinland Klinikum Neuss, Germany

²Department of Medical and Surgical Sciences, Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University of Foggia, Foggia, Italy

³Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University of Witten Herdecke, Witten, Germany

ABSTRACT

Background: Previous retropubic surgery, such as laparoscopic Burch colpo-suspension, can significantly alter the anatomy of the space of Retzius due to fibrosis and scarring. These changes increase the technical difficulty and risk of complications during subsequent retropubic procedures, particularly midurethral sling placement.

Objectives: To demonstrate the feasibility and safety of laparoscopic-assisted tension-free vaginal tape (TVT) placement in a patient with recurrent stress urinary incontinence (SUI) following prior colpo-suspension.

Participant: A 74-year-old woman with recurrent stress urinary incontinence following laparoscopic Burch colpo-suspension performed five years previously.

Intervention: Retropubic TVT placement was performed under simultaneous laparoscopic guidance at a tertiary gynaecological centre. Intraoperative laparoscopy enabled visualisation of the retropubic space, revealing significant fibrosis and distorted anatomy. Needle passage and sling positioning were performed under direct visualisation. Because extensive retropubic dissection reduced the usual tissue support of the tape, it was temporarily secured with a rapidly absorbable suture to maintain its position without increasing suburethral tension.

Conclusions: Laparoscopic-assisted TVT placement is a feasible and safe approach in patients with prior retropubic surgery. Direct visualisation allows identification of altered anatomical planes, facilitating controlled needle passage and potentially reducing the risk of complications.

What is New? This video demonstrates the importance of avoiding blind needle insertion in patients with prior colpo-suspension and highlights laparoscopic guidance as a valuable strategy to improve safety during retropubic sling procedures.

Keywords: Feasibility, laparoscopy, midurethral sling, scarring, stress urinary incontinence, suture

Corresponding Author: Anna Pitsillidi, MD, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Rheinland Klinikum Neuss, Germany

E-mail: anna.pitsillidi@gmail.com **ORCID ID:** orcid.org/0009-0003-5363-3522

Received: 22.04.2026 **Accepted:** 18.08.2026 **Epub:** 31.08.2026

Cite this article as: Pitsillidi A, Vona L, Noé GK. Laparoscopic-guided TVT placement after prior colpo-suspension. Facts Views Vis Obgyn. [Epub Ahead of Print]



Acknowledgments: Nothing to acknowledge.

Contributors: Surgical and Medical Practices: A.P., G.K.N., Concept: A.P., G.K.N., Design: A.P., Data Collection or Processing: A.P., L.V., Analysis or Interpretation: A.P., L.V., Literature Search: A.P., L.V., Writing: A.P., L.V.

Funding: The authors declared that this study received no financial support.

Competing interests: No conflict of interest was declared by the authors.

Ethical approval: Not applicable.

Informed consent: Written informed consent has been obtained from the patient to publish this paper.

Data sharing: No datasets were generated or analysed for this study.

Transparency: The authors confirm that the case and procedure are reported accurately and transparently.



Video 1. Laparoscopic-guided TVT placement after prior colpo-suspension: <https://youtu.be/Dn743EUYjE8>
