

Procedure information

Adjustable transobturator male sling (ATOMS)

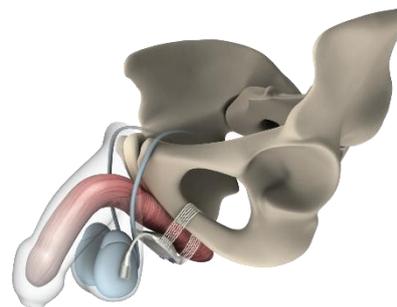
What is an adjustable transobturator male sling?

The adjustable sling is an implantable device. It can be adjusted by a doctor without further surgery and does not require manual operation by the patient.

Why is an adjustable transobturator male sling required?

Urinary incontinence is the involuntary loss of urine from the bladder.

An adjustable sling supports the urethra and is designed to prevent the loss of urine.



ATOMS

What does ATOMS surgery involve?

The ATOMS procedure is minimally invasive and is usually performed under general anaesthetic (completely asleep) or spinal anaesthetic (numb from the waist down).

The implant is inserted through a small incision made under the scrotum. The central cushion is positioned directly under the urethra. The mesh arms are drawn under the skin and positioned around a bony structure to hold it in place. An access port is then positioned into the scrotum.

This port is used to make future adjustments to the sling to suit the individual's requirements. Fluid is injected into the port that then fills the cushion to adjust the support of the urethra.

We close the skin with dissolvable sutures and cover the incision with surgical glue. The sutures are internal and take a few weeks to dissolve.

A catheter is placed during the surgery and this is usually removed the following day.

You will usually go home from hospital the day after the surgery.

What is the recovery after ATOMS surgery?

Adjustable sling surgery is usually performed as an overnight stay in hospital.

It is common to have mild to moderate pain after ATOMS surgery. You will be given instructions on pain relief medication to take after the operation.

You may have scrotal or perineal bruising and discomfort. It will take a few weeks for this to completely resolve.

You need to be very careful in the first 6 weeks following surgery to avoid slippage of the sling.

- No lifting greater than 4-5 kg.
- Avoid stepping up into vehicles.
- Abstain from sexual activity.
- No bending, squatting, climbing, extreme leg spreads, biking or jogging. Sit down to tie shoelaces.

You can usually return to sedentary work approximately 14 days after the operation. If your job involves physical work, please discuss this with your doctor.

You can start doing gently exercise, such as walking, approximately 7 days after the operation.

You can recommence driving after 2 weeks. Please avoid stepping up into high vehicles.

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What are the risks of an ATOMS procedure?

The risks of this procedure include (but are not limited to):

Common risks (1/2 to 1/10):

- Burning or stinging when passing urine.
- Discomfort and bruising in your perineum, scrotum and groins.
- Failure to produce any significant improvement in your leakage.

Occasional risks (1/10 to 1/50):

- Inability to pass urine requiring the need for a urethral catheter.
- Infection in the wound or urine requiring further treatment.
- The need to pass urine more frequently and urgently.

Rare risks (1/50 to 1/250):

- Damage to the urethra during surgery preventing the surgery being completed.
- Gradual migration of the sling into your urethra months or years later which may require removal and further reconstructive surgery.
- Groin/scrotal pain, discomfort or altered sensation that may be temporary or permanent.
- Injury to the bladder requiring prolonged catheterisation.
- Fibrosis of the tissues surrounding the implant resulting in reduced compression of the urethra.

Other uncommon or very uncommon risks of surgery and anaesthesia include:

- Blood clots in the legs (Deep vein thrombosis (DVT)) or lungs (Pulmonary embolus).
- Chest infection (Pneumonia).
- Heart attack.
- Stroke.
- A serious allergic reaction (Anaphylaxis).
- Death.

What are the alternative treatment options?

- Pelvic floor exercises.
- Weight loss.
- Incontinence pads or a penile sheath.
- Penile clamps.
- Urethral slings.
- Urethral bulking agents.
- Urethral or suprapubic catheter.
- Artificial urinary sphincter or other circumferential devices.

This is general information only. Please consult your doctor for more information and treatment options.

For appointments and enquiries please contact 07 3830 3300.

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