

Fig 1. GelPOINT V-Path transvaginal access platform



Introduction and Objectives

Vaginal Natural Orifice Transluminal Endoscopic Surgery (vNOTES) is an emerging minimally invasive technique utilising endoscopic instruments to perform surgical procedures through a posterior colpotomy incision. This technique obviates the need for abdominal trocar insertions and is associated with reduced morbidity, improved cosmesis and decreased length of stay compared to conventional laparoscopic surgery. This case series set out to evaluate the the safety, patient acceptability and surgical outcomes of vNOTES in the management of both ruptured and un-ruptured ectopic pregnancies.

Design and Methodology

Observational case series of emergency adnexal surgery in nine patients with ectopic pregnancies by a surgeon from a single centre. Nine women aged 25 to 37 underwent vNOTES salpingectomy. Ectopic size, ectopic rupture status, estimated blood loss, operative duration and post-operative stay were recorded both retro- and prospectively into a database from patient records. Patient acceptability was assessed in the post-operative period via direct patient questioning.

vNOTES Salpingectomy for Ectopic Pregnancy – the Future of Endoscopic Surgery? A Case Series of Nine Patients

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Results

Patient	Age	BMI	Parity	Obstetric History	Ectopic largest diameter (mm)	Rupture	Operating Time (mins)	EBL (mls)	Ward stay (hours)	Complications
1	37	30	1	1 x SVD	20	yes	50	100	37.6	nil
2	26	28	0+1	1 x MTOP	27	yes	65	100	22.67	nil
3	25	19	1	1 x SVD	24	yes	45	300	20.63	nil
4	29	42	3	3 x SVD	26	yes	135	150	7.17	extended operating time due to lost swab
5	26	22	0	1 x TOP	19	no	30	50	25.83	nil
6	26	27	1	1 x CS	19	no	33	50	40	delayed discharge due to lack of chaperone
7	29	24	1	1 x SVD	40	no	25	250	3.2	nil
8	37	38	3	3 x SVD	30	yes	45	200	49	nil
9	34	26	0+5	4 x miscarriage, 1 x previous ectopic	17	yes	30	150	2.5	nil
Median	29	27	1	n/a	24	n/a	45	150	22.67	n/a

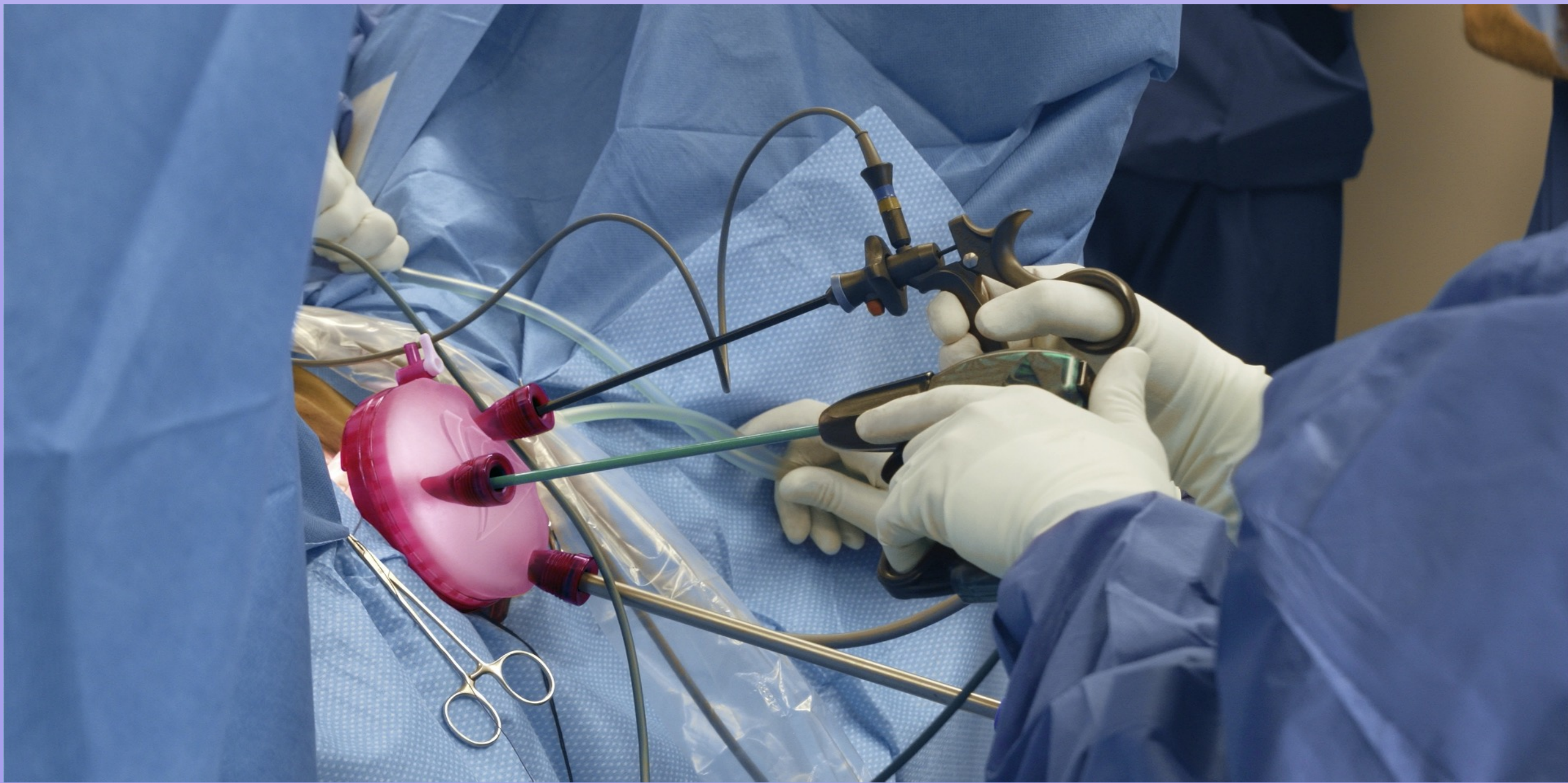


Fig 2. GelPOINT V-Path device in use

Conclusion

vNOTES salpingectomy is an acceptable, safe and potentially time and cost effective approach to the management of ectopic pregnancy. This case series demonstrates the suitability for ectopics of varying size and rupture status. The improved recovery time and cosmesis make this route an attractive option to patients and increased training, expertise and research is needed to enable widespread practice and feasibility.