

POST-OPERATIVE ROUTINE VAGINAL PACKS: SHOULD WE USE THEM?

Whitt, Selma; Ives, Pauline; Al-Hakeem, Jawaher; Asfour, Victoria
East Sussex Health Trust, Hastings , East Sussex, UK

INTRODUCTION

- A vaginal pack is introduced into the vaginal vault at the end of prolapse surgery
- It has traditionally been used for haemostasis and to prevent haematoma formation post-operatively

DESIGN

- Quality service improvement project- A component of GIRFT (Get it right first time)

OBJECTIVE

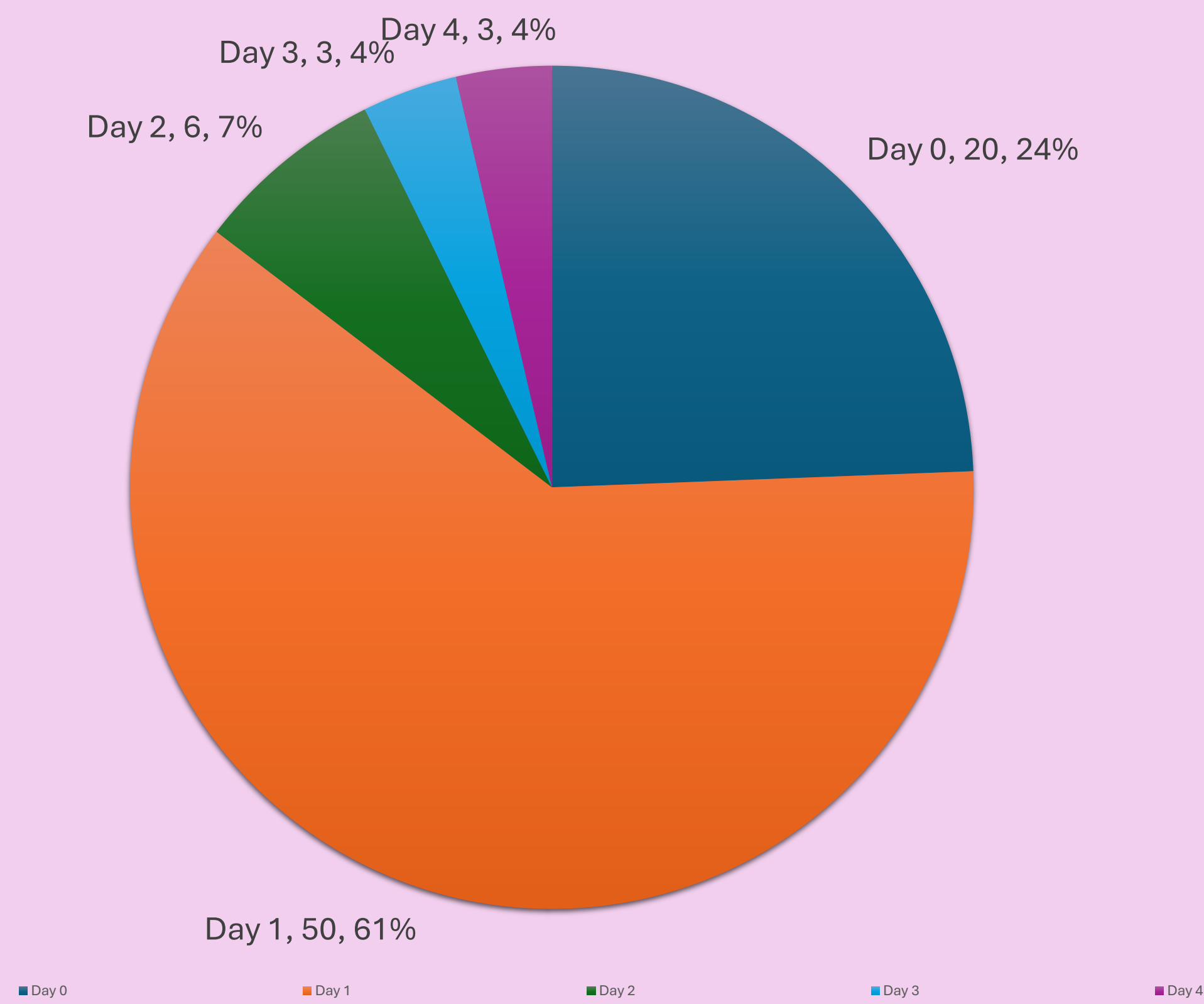
- To observe the impact of not using vaginal packs post-operatively for prolapse surgery on length of stay and bleeding complications after surgery.

METHOD

- Observational study of prospectively collected data
- No vaginal packs were used
- Data on return to theatre, blood transfusion and Hb drop were collected
- The catheter was removed after the patient was able to mobilise on the ward
- The length of stay was observed

RESULTS

Length of stay post-operatively



Patients with longer stay were elderly, lived alone and with significant comorbidities.

Haemoglobin levels

- Pre-operative haemoglobin level ranged from 102-159 (mean 134; median 135)
- Post-operatively the haemoglobin level ranged from 87-150 (mean 121; median 122)

CONCLUSION

There was no adverse outcome from not using vaginal packs post-operatively for prolapse surgery.
Patients recovered well and safely.

