

THE SUMMER OF SPIGELIANS

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OBJECTIVES:

Spigelian hernias are a rare abdominal wall defect which occurs through a defect in the transversus abdominus, lateral to the linea semilunaris and above the arcuate line of Douglas accounting for 0.12% of abdominal wall hernias. Methods of repair have been described by both laparoscopic and open techniques. We present three sequential patients with Spigelian defects repaired via a robotic approach in the summer of 2019. Additionally we describe a novel robotic “sandwich” technique for durable repair of the Spigelian hernia.

METHODS AND PROCEDURES:

A sequential case series and review of the literature. All operations were completed on the da Vinci Xi Surgical System with initial laparoscopic intraperitoneal entry and trochar placement.

CASES:

Three patients are presented who underwent elective laparoscopic assisted robotic repair of Spigelian hernias as ambulatory operating room patients. All hernias were repaired via an intraperitoneal approach with primary repair of the defect and pre-peritoneal mesh placement with subsequent closure of the peritoneum. One patient underwent a novel repair with an additional layer of mesh placed between the internal and external obliques lateral to the linea semilunaris and above the Spigelian defect prior to primary closure and pre-peritoneal mesh placement. Thereby uniquely performing and describing a robotic “sandwich” type of repair for Spigelian hernias upon literature review. All patients were discharged ambulatory from the hospital same day. All patients had a non-complicated post-operative course and zero 30-day recurrences.

CONCLUSIONS:

Our experience has illustrated the ease of repair with a robotic approach with an additional ability to close the Spigelian defect primarily prior to pre-peritoneal mesh placement. Primary repair provides the patient with an additional aesthetic advantage by eliminating the Spigelian defect and bulge appreciated by the on exam when compared to pre-peritoneal mesh insertion alone. Furthermore, a durable repair has been devised by the robotic “sandwich” technique of mesh placement in our case series. Although our experience is limited we advocate repair of Spigelian hernia defects via a robotic approach with pre-peritoneal mesh placement or “sandwich” type mesh placement when technically feasible.

