Liquid Hydrogel in the treatment for complex fistulas

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1. OBJECTIVE OF THE TECHNOLOGY OR DEVICE.

The treatment of complex fistulas is a very challenging surgical procedure due to its complexity, high recurrence rate. The main objective of the presentation is to preserve anal sphincter function, blocking of the internal opening without using surgical procedure.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE TECHNOLOGY AND METHOD OF ITS USE OR APPLICATION.

Patient is placed in the prone jackknife position after combined spinal epidural anesthesia has been established. If digital rectal exam is unable to detect internal opening methylene blue or hydrogen peroxide is injected through a catheter. The fistulas tract if filled with liquid hydrogel at zero degree which becomes gel at human temperature producing the blockage of the fistula's tract. The passage of the liquid hydrogel through the internal opening could ease the closure of the internal opening. Hydrogel could be encapsulated with MSC for local tissue regeneration. Liquid hydrogel approach could be a very safe treatment in complex anorectal vaginal fistulas. It could be better choice than Fibrin Glue and Anal Fistula plug in the treatment of complex fistulas.

3. PRELIMINARY RESULTS IF AVAILABLE.

Preliminary results are not available.

4. CONCLUSIONS/FUTURE DIRECTIONS.

Experimental confirmation of the liquid hydrogel approach in the treatment of complex fistulas could avoid all the complications of surgical procedure such as LIFT technique.