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Original Research Article

Role of urodynamics in evaluation of lower urinary tract dysfunction in women of pelvic organ prolapse

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ABSTRACT

Background: Utero-vaginal prolapse is a common gynecological disorder, result from weakness of musculoskeletal structure that support the pelvic organ. Although it is not an emergency situation but severely affect the quality of life. Women with utero-vaginal prolapse may present with lower urinary tract dysfunction but association of urological changes with UV prolapse and beneficial effect of surgery on these changes is still debatable. Urodynamic study such as cystometry and uroflowmetry help in better understanding of lower urinary tract dysfunction and assist to plan appropriate surgical management thereby reduce chances of postoperative voiding dysfunction.

Methods: A total of 30 women of pelvic organ prolapse with lower urinary tract dysfunction, over a period of one year, were subjected to urodynamic studies after thorough evaluation by history, examination and standardized questionnaire both pre and post operatively and data analysed.

Results: In present study, urodynamic study identified urinary dysfunction in 93.34% of women recruited in study. Obstruction was present in 36.67% of women. Detrusor overactivity along with obstruction was seen in 20.00% of women. Urodynamic stress incontinence and urodynamic stress incontinence along with obstruction was identified in 13.33% of women each and detrusor overactivity was observed in 10.00% of women.

Conclusions: In present study it was found that, if surgical management of pelvic organ prolapse is planned according to urodynamic study, it will improve urologic profile of patients. To conclude that urodynamic study should be an integral part of diagnostic work up of uterovaginal prolapse patients require larger sample size and at least 6 months follow-up duration after surgery.

Keywords: Detrusor overactivity, Lower urinary tract dysfunction, Stress urinary incontinence, Urodynamic study, Utero-vaginal prolapse

INTRODUCTION

Pelvic organ prolapse is a process in which the pelvic contents, including the reproductive organ, bladder, rectum and/or small intestine become herniated through defect in vaginal wall. Pelvic organ prolapse is a health concern affecting millions of women worldwide. Prolapse affects progressively a larger percentage of women as age advances. Incidence of prolapse doubles

with each decade of life between 20 and 59 years of age.¹ Each year of increasing age is associated with a 12% increase in the risk of development of prolapse.² In a study conducted in United States by Oslen et al observed that a woman has an estimated lifetime risk of 11% to undergo surgery for prolapse or incontinence.³

High parity, low estrogen status following menopause, obesity, smoking, constipation and obstetric factors

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related to individual delivery such as prolonged second stage or poor surgical repair of perineal injury are risk factors for development of pelvic organ prolapse. 4-6

International continence society committee on standardization of terminology of pelvic organ prolapse and pelvic floor dysfunction has enumerated various urinary symptoms that are associated with pelvic organ prolapse.⁷

Lower urinary symptoms divided into 3 groups, storage, voiding and post micturition symptoms. Storage symptoms include frequency, urgency, stress urinary incontinence and urge urinary incontinence. Voiding symptoms include hesitancy, slow stream, intermittent stream and straining. Post micturition symptoms include feeling of incomplete emptying and post micturition dribble.

There is complex relationship between pelvic organ prolapse and urinary symptoms.

Anterior vaginal wall supports the bladder and urethra directly and loss of this support results in urethral hypermobility and cystocele formation which is thought to contribute to the development of stress urinary incontinence. Literature indicates that many women with mild prolapse have stress urinary incontinence. In contrast patients with advanced prolapse commonly do not have urinary incontinence but are more likely to have obstructive symptoms due to distortion of lower urinary tract. In women with more advanced pelvic organ prolapse the stress incontinence may be occult due to compressive effect or urethral kinking and may manifest when prolapse is reduced.⁸

Symptoms like frequency, urgency or urge incontinence may be unrelated to prolapse and require alternate therapy, although some studies have found a positive correlation between urge incontinence and both anterior and posterior vaginal wall prolapse. Overactive bladder symptoms may be due to descent of trigone with the anterior wall prolapse or obstruction of the urethra due to vaginal wall prolapse and bladder over activity may be a counteractive mechanism to overcome the obstruction. 9,10

Urodynamic studies assess the function of the bladder and urethra and are often useful in the assessment and diagnosis of patients presenting with lower urinary tract dysfunction. Urodynamic tests such as cystometry, uroflowmetry, pressure flow studies provide objective information regarding the normal and abnormal function of the urinary tract and pelvic floor, and therefore a better understanding of the cause of lower urinary tract dysfunction.

According to the recommendations of the International continence society, a urodynamic investigation should be a part of the diagnostic work up in patients with genital prolapse grade 2 or more, who are candidates for surgical correction.

Concealed stress urinary incontinence following the reduction of pelvic organ prolapse has been reported. Incorporation of urodynamic investigation in the standard diagnostic work-up of all women with symptoms of lower urinary tract dysfunction or with major degree of prolapse undergoing surgical correction helps to plan the surgical management and perform any additional surgical procedure if needed thereby reducing the chance of postoperative voiding dysfunction. With this background, this study is planned to know the role of urodynamic study in evaluation of lower urinary tract dysfunction in women of uterovaginal prolapse and analyse the postoperative with the preoperative urodynamic findings.

Aims and objectives

Aims and objectives were to study the lower urinary tract dysfunction by urodynamic study in cases of uterovaginal prolapse with lower urinary tract symptoms and in advanced degree of utero-vaginal prolapse and decide the surgical management accordingly and to analyse the postoperative outcome with the preoperative urodynamic findings in utero-vaginal prolapse.

METHODS

The present study was a hospital based observational study done on 30 patients who visited to gynecology OPD of Lady Hardinge Medical College New Delhi, from November 2011 to March 2013. The study included all women with pelvic organ prolapse who have complaints of lower urinary tract dysfunction or advanced degree (stage 3 and 4) of prolapse. Women who undergone incontinence procedure earlier or had neurological disease like multiple sclerosis and spinal cord injuries were excluded from the study.

After admission a thorough history and examination of the patient was carried out. A standardized questionnaire was given to patient to evaluate the symptoms of stress urinary incontinence, urge urinary incontinence and obstructive symptoms. This was followed by clinical staging of pelvic organ prolapse by ICS POP Q Staging and ultrasound examination was also carried out to rule out any pelvic pathology. Lower urinary tract dysfunction was evaluated by urodynamic study and then corrective procedures for uterovaginal prolapse were undertaken. Women were followed-up with same questionnaire and clinical examination and urodynamics after 2 months of corrective surgery.

Urodynamic studies

Urodynamic studies carried out in all 30 patients with pelvic organ prolapse were as uroflowmetry, cystometry.

After obtaining sterile urine culture, 1-day voiding dairy and prophylactic antibiotic was given to patients.

Uroflowmetry

Gravimetric method was used. Maximum flow rate, average flow rate, voided volume and residual urine was measured. Maximum flow rate ≤ 15 ml/sec, and/or residual urine of more than 50 ml or 10% of voided volume in a bladder filled with a minimum of 150 ml was taken as cut off to detect abnormal voiding. 11,12

Cystometry

The following parameters were taken as normal bladder function. Residual urine of less than 50ml or 10% of voided volume. First desire to void between 150 and 200 ml. Capacity (taken as strong desire to void) of greater than 400 ml. Detrusor pressure rise on filling of less than 15 mm H₂O per 500 ml infused. Absence of systolic detrusor contractions. No leakage on coughing. No significant pain on filling. A detrusor pressure rises on voiding (maximum voiding pressure) of less than 50 cm H₂O, with a peak flow rate of more than 15 ml/s for a voided volume over 150 ml. Urodynamic stress incontinence was diagnosed when urethral leakage was seen with increased abdominal pressure, in the absence of detrusor contractions.⁷

Detrusor overactivity was diagnosed when the patient has involuntary detrusor contractions during filling with or without leakage which may be spontaneous or provoked.⁷

Statistical analysis

Mean and standard deviation were calculated for all continuous variables and the paired t-test and ANOVA were used to determine statistically differences.

RESULTS

The age of the women recruited in this study was between 36-64 years. The mean age was 51.63 ± 7.85 . Only 2 women (6.67%) were below 40 years, whereas 20 women (66.66%) were between 40-60 years and 8 women (26.67%) were above 60 years of age (Table 1).

All women recruited in this study were multiparous and parity ranging between 3-7. The mean parity was 4.83±1.02. 63.33% women were with parity 5 or more, 26.67% women were with parity 4 and 10.00% of women were with parity 3 (Table 2).

Maximum number of women (70.00%) recruited in this study were in stage 3 prolapse, 23.33% of women were in stage 2 prolapse and 6.67% of women were in stage 1 prolapse (Table 4).

Table 1: Age distribution in study population.

Age (in years)	Number of patients	Percentage
<40	2	6.67
40-50	7	23.33
50-60	13	43.33
>60	8	26.67
Total	30	100

Table 2: Parity distribution in study population.

Parity	Number of patients	Percentage
3	3	10.00
4	8	26.67
5 or more	19	63.33
Total	30	100

Table 3: Distribution of menopausal status in study population.

	Number of patients	Percentage
Premenopausal	7	23.33
Postmenopausal	23	76.67
Total	30	100

In this study 7 women (23.33%) women were premenopausal and 23 women (76.67%) women were postmenopausal (Table 3).

Table 4: Distribution of POP-Q stages of prolapse in study population.

	Number of patients	Percentage
Stage 1	2	6.67
Stage 2	7	23.33
Stage 3	21	70.00
Total	30	100

In present study, 2 women out of 4 with SUI who were in stage 1Ba and had urodynamic stress incontinence but did not have detrusor overactivity underwent Trans-obturator Tape procedure.

A total 2 women who had complains of both SUI and UUI and were in stage 2Ba and had urodynamic stress incontinence but did not have detrusor overactivity underwent trans-obturator Tape procedure along with cystocele repair. A total 4 women out of 30 who had obstructive symptoms along with SUI and on urodynamic evaluation had obstruction and USI underwent vaginal hysterectomy and anterior colporrhaphy and posterior colpo-perineorrhaphy and bladder neck buttressing (Kelly' plication).

Table 5: Type of surgery based on symptoms, stage and urodynamic finding in women with uterovaginal prolapse.

Number	Symptoms	Stage of UV-prolapse	Urodynamic finding	Type of surgery	
	SUI (2)	Stage 1BA (2)		Trans-obturator tape	
4			USI (+)	procedure	
•	SUI+UUI (2)	Stage 2BA (2)	Detrusor overactivity (-)	Trans-obturator tape +cystocele repair	
	SUI+ obstructive		USI (+)	Vaginal hysterectomy	
4	symptoms	Stage 3C	Detrusor overactivity (-) obstruction	with PFR and bladder neck buttressing	
Stage 2C (3)		Obstructive symptoms	Obstruction (2)	J	
	Stage 2C (1)	UUI No dysfunction (1) detrusor overactivity (1)			
	Stage 2C (1)		ucitusoi overactivity (1)	_	
	Stage 2C (1) Obstructive symptom +SUI+UUI		No dysfunction (1)	Vaginal hysterectomy	
22			Obstruction (7)	with anterior colporrhaphy and posterior colpo- perineorrhaphy	
22	Stage 3C (10)	Obstructive symptoms	Obstruction+detrusor		
			Overactivity (3)		
Stage 3C (4)		Obstructive	Obstruction (2)	permeerinapity	
	Stage SC (4)	symptoms+SUI	Detrusor overactivity (2)		
	Stage 3C (3)	Obstructive symptoms	Obstruction+detrusor		
	Stage 3C (3)	+UUI	Overactivity (3)		

A total 3 women out of 30 women had obstructive symptoms and were in stage 2C and on urodynamic evaluation 2 women had obstruction and 1 woman did not have any dysfunction underwent vaginal hysterectomy and anterior colporrhaphy and posterior colpo-perineorrhaphy. A total 1 woman out of 30 had complain of urge incontinence and were in stage 2C and had detrusor overactivity on urodynamic study underwent vaginal hysterectomy and anterior colporrhaphy and posterior colpo-perineorrhaphy.

Only 1 woman who had obstructive symptoms along with SUI and UUI both were in stage 2C had detrusor activity only underwent vaginal hysterectomy and anterior colporrhaphy and posterior colpo-perineorrhaphy.

A total 10 women out of 30 had obstructive symptoms and were in stage 3C and on urodynamic evaluation 7 had pure obstruction and 3 had detrusor overactivity underwent vaginal hysterectomy and anterior colporrhaphy and posterior colpo-perineorrhaphy.

Table 6: Comparison of symptoms pre and post-surgery.

Symptoms	Pre surgery	Post surgery
Obstructive	25	0
Stress urinary incontinence	13	0
Urge urinary incontinence	7	6

Table 7: Comparison of parameters of uroflowmetry pre and post-surgery.

Unademania data	Pre-surgery		Post-surgery	Post-surgery	
Urodynamic data	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	P-value
Max. flow rate (ml/sec)	17.93	4.05	20.97	4.11	0.000
Avg. flow rate (ml/sec)	12.77	2.56	13.2	1.73	0.191
Voided volume	493.33	93.75	533.67	81.47	0.003
Residual urine (ml)	64.33	19.82	51.33	7.30	0.001

A total 4 women out of 30 who had obstructive symptoms along with SUI were in stage 3C and on urodynamic study 2 had pure obstruction and 2 had detrusor overactivity underwent vaginal hysterectomy and anterior colporrhaphy and posterior colpoperineorrhaphy.

A total 3 women out of 30, who had obstructive symptoms along with UUI, were in stage 3C and had obstruction and detrusor overactivity on urodynamic study underwent vaginal hysterectomy and anterior colporrhaphy and posterior colpo-perineorrhaphy (Table 5).

Custom stury data	Pre-surgery		Post-surger	Post-surgery	
Cystometry data	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	P-value
1st sensation to void (ml)	196.33	68.05	219.67	68.86	0.006
1st desire to void (ml)	363.67	82.48	379.33	76.47	0.171
Strong desire to void (ml)	527	118.85	541.33	96.69	0.233
Max. filling detrusor pressure	13.67	2.97	12.73	1.84	0.056
Max. cystometric capacity (ml)	531.67	124.99	561.67	97.95	0.081
Leakage of urine	8	26.66	0	0.00	0.010
Unstable contractions-PHASIC	9	30.00	2	6.67	0.010

Table 8: Comparison of cystometric parameter pre and post-surgery.

In present study 25 out of 30 women had obstructive symptoms, 13 complained stress urinary incontinence and 7 had urge urinary incontinence before surgery. Post-surgery obstructive symptoms and SUI got completely relieved. 6 women still had UUI (Table 6).

Before surgery mean maximum flow rate was 17.93±4.05 ml/sec and after surgery mean maximum flow rate was 20.97±4.41. Before surgery mean average flow, rate was 12.77±2.56 ml/sec and after surgery mean average flow rate was 13.2±1.73 ml/sec. Before surgery voided volume was 493.33±93.75 ml and after surgery voided volume was 533.67±81.47 ml. Before surgery residual urine was 64.43ml±19.82 ml and after surgery was 51.33±7.3 ml. The change in parameters were statistically significant for maximum flow rate, voided volume and residual urine (Table 7).

Before surgery average volume of 1st desire was 196.33±68.05 ml and after surgery it was 219.67±68.86 ml. Before surgery average maximum cystometric capacity was 531.67±124.99 ml and after surgery it was561.67±97.95ml. Before surgery detrusor overactivity was observed in 30% (9 out of 30) of patients and after surgery detrusor overactivity was observed in 6% (2 out of 30) of patients. Before surgery urodynamic stress incontinence was present in 26.66% (8 out of 30) patients and after surgery none of the women had USI (Table 8).

DISCUSSION

In the present study, the mean age of women was 51.63 ± 7.85 years. The age group included in our study was ≥ 36 and ≤ 64 years. Maximum number of women (43.33%) with uterovaginal prolapse was in age group of 50-60 years. The incidence of utero-vaginal prolapse is known to increase as the age advances. In a study by Swift et al it was found that with each year of increasing age, the risk of development of prolapse is increased by 12%. 13

In present study, parity ranged between 3 to 7 with an average parity of 4.83±1.02. It was observed that 63.33% of women who were recruited in the study were grand multiparous with parity of 5 or more. Thus, it is evident that, recurrent child birth predisposes to prolapse.

In a study conducted by Hendrix et al the increased prevalence of uterine prolapse was associated with increasing parity (OR, 2.13 for first birth and 1.10 for each subsequent birth).¹⁴

In present study, 76.67% patients were postmenopausal, average duration of menopause was 7±2.86 years. Uterovaginal prolapse was more commonly seen in postmenopausal women. Hendrix et al conducted a study and found high prevalence of pelvic organ prolapse after menopause. Hestrogen is essential for synthesis of collagen protein that enables the supportive tissue of pelvis to stretch and return to their normal position. Decrease estrogen level after menopause results in decrease collagen in the connective tissues. Without sufficient collagen, the tissues become more rigid and may no longer provide enough support for the pelvic organs which results in pelvic organ prolapse.

A total 70% of women recruited in the study were in stage 3, 23.33% of women were in stage 2 and 6.67% of women were in stage 1.

In present study, in 4 women who had complains of SUI, urodynamic stress incontinence was observed on urodynamic evaluation but detrusor overactivity was notably absent. On POP-Q staging, 2 women were in stage 1 Ba and 2 women were in stage 2 Ba. Transobturator tape procedure was performed in women with stage 1 Ba and trans-obturator tape along with cystocele repair was done in stage 2 Ba.

The 4 women who had complaints of SUI along with obstructive symptoms were in POP-Q stage-3C. On urodynamic evaluation, urodynamic stress incontinence and obstruction was observed in these women. Vaginal hysterectomy and pelvic floor repair along with bladder neck buttressing was performed in these 4 women.

Out of remaining 22 women, 5 women were in POP-Q stage 2C and 17 women were in stage 3C. On urodynamic evaluation, detrusor overactivity was observed in 3 women, pure obstruction was seen in 11 women and 6 women had obstruction and detrusor overactivity. Surgical procedure of choice in these

women was vaginal hysterectomy with anterior colporrhaphy and posterior colporrhaphy.

In the present study, the mean duration of follow-up after surgery was 91.23±22.89 days.

The surgical management was altered in 8 out of 30 (26.66%) women in which 4 out of 30 (13.33%) women underwent trans-obturator tape procedure and 4 out of 30 (13.33%) women had a surgery like bladder neck buttressing along with vaginal hysterectomy. Rest 5 who had complaints of SUI but no urodynamic evidence of SUI, additional procedure was not performed. However, all women had appropriate colporrhaphy which subsequently resolved their symptoms.

In a study conducted by Jha et al, preoperative urodynamic study was done in 60% of patients, 53% of women had abnormal results on urodynamic, 19% had pure stress incontinence and 30% had detrusor overactivity either in isolation or as mixed incontinence. The surgical management was altered in 7% who had an additional continence procedure performed as a consequence of the UDS. Preoperative UDS changed management in 33% patients and in 7% of patients, the surgical procedure was changed. ¹⁵

In women who had obstructive symptoms before surgery none of the women continued to have these symptoms after surgery. Urodynamic parameters also improved after surgery. In the preoperative group the mean value for Q-max was 17.93±4.05 ml/s, whereas in the post-operative group the value was20.97±4.11 ml/s (p-value 0.00). Before surgery mean voided volume was 493.33±93.75 ml and after surgery it was 533.67±81.47 ml (0.003). Before surgery residual urine was 64.33±19.82 ml and after surgery it was 51.33±7.30 ml (p-value 0.001).

Maximum flow rate, average flow rate and voided volume were more and residual urine was less as compares to values obtained before surgery and this difference was statistically significant. Thus, it explains that surgical correction of advanced utero-vaginal prolapse does relieve the outflow obstruction that is caused due to the urethral kinking due to the large prolapse.

None of the women who had symptoms of SUI or urodynamic SUI prior to surgery, continued to have it after surgery. In addition, in the present study there was no case of occult stress incontinence presenting in women post-surgery. This could be due a thorough evaluation of individual compartment descent by POP Q staging and voiding disorder by urodynamic study prior to surgery which helped to plan the corrective surgeries or to perform additional procedures appropriately based on the POP-Q staging and urodynamic testing. In the study 8 women with urodynamic SUI, 4 women underwent trans-

obturator tape procedure and 4 had bladder neck buttressing (Kelly's plication) along with the repairs.

The reason for non- occurrence of occult-SUI postsurgery in the study group could be because, a thorough assessment of symptoms by clinical examination and urodynamic study was undertaken which helped to diagnose any voiding dysfunction which was present preoperatively and managed appropriately during surgery. However, the small sample size and short follow-up period of 2 month taken in the study may also be a reason for absence of this finding.

In a study conducted by Thorns et al it was observed that there was no increase in the incidence of SUI after pelvic surgeries especially in the first two years after surgery.¹⁶

There are various studies which support the presence of occult urinary incontinence in advanced stage of prolapse. In a study by Liang it was found that women with severe degree of prolapse rarely complain of stress urinary incontinence because of urethral kinking. But, 15-80% of these women may develop such symptoms after surgery/pessary reduction. 17,18

In a study by Rosenzweig et al who performed urodynamic study on 22 clinically continent women with severe urogenital prolapse, it was found that occult incontinence disorder was present in 59% of women.¹⁹

A study was conducted by Ducey et al who performed urodynamic study on 41 women with stage 3 or 4 prolapse. Urodynamics identified 17 (41.5%) women with occult SUI. Postoperatively 3 (7.3%) women reported urinary incontinence: 1 with stress and 2 with urge-related symptoms. None of the women without occult SUI on urodynamics reported postoperative SUI.²⁰

In a study conducted by Chaikin et al on 24 women referred for evaluation of advanced degree of urogenital prolapse, it was found in their study that occult sphincteric incontinence was present in 58% of women with advanced degree of urogenital prolapse.²¹

Therefore, further studies are needed to see the prevalence of occult stress incontinence in women with uterovaginal prolapse.

On urodynamic evaluation 9 women had detrusor overactivity preoperatively whereas only 2 women had detrusor overactivity postoperatively, this suggest that post-surgical correction of the compartmental defect had led to alleviation of obstructive symptoms, thereby leading to reduction of the detrusor overactivity which may have been present to overcome the obstruction. Detrusor overactivity had resolved in 77.77% of women after surgery.

In the present study, symptoms like frequency, urgency and urge incontinence did not improve completely after

surgery. This could be a temporary phenomenon due to the effect of surgery and six months follow up after surgery is required to evaluate the full urodynamic impact of surgery for advanced POP and this remains one of the limitations of the present study. It is postulated that reconstructive pelvic surgery disturbs the intricate innervations of the pelvis, both somatic and autonomic and this could explain the persistence of voiding symptoms such as frequency and urgency, post operatively, in spite of the correction of the anatomical defect.

Nguyen and Bhatia retrospectively reviewed the medical records of 38 women with grade

Total 2 or greater prolapse and urge incontinence secondary to detrusor overactivity who underwent vaginal reconstructive surgery. Detrusor instability resolved after surgery in 63% of subjects after surgery.²²

In a study conducted by Stanton, who performed anterior colporrhaphy with or without vaginal hysterectomy in 73 patients for prolapse with or without incontinence it was found that symptoms of urge incontinence, stress incontinence and prolapse were significantly reduced following surgery, but urodynamic data did not show any significant change.²³

CONCLUSION

To conclude our results of 30 patients, urodynamic study identified urinary dysfunction in 93.34% of women recruited in the study. Obstruction was present in 36.67% of women. Detrusor overactivity along with obstruction was seen in 20.00% of women. Urodynamic stress incontinence and urodynamic stress incontinence along with obstruction was identified in 13.33% of women each and detrusor overactivity was observed in 10.00% of women. Obstruction and detrusor overactivity were more common with advance stage and Urodynamic stress incontinence was more common with early stage of uterovaginal prolapse.

Thus, urodynamic study identified the urinary tract dysfunction objectively and modified surgical management in 26.66% of women. In present study surgical correction of stress incontinence was based on urodynamic findings which prevented over and under correction of incontinence. Urge incontinence was predominantly present in women with obstruction which disappeared in 77.77% of women postoperatively. In women with obstruction the postoperative urodynamic parameter significantly improved which was result of proper correction of various compartment defect.

Thus, available evidence suggests that if surgical management of pelvic organ prolapse is planned according to urodynamic study, it will improve urologic profile of patients. Small sample size and short follow-up period after surgery was major limitation of study. Hence

to conclude that urodynamic study should be an integral part of diagnostic work up of uterovaginal prolapse patients require larger sample size and at least 6 months follow-up duration after surgery.

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Institutional Ethics Committee

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