Factors Influencing Post-Operative Short-Term Outcomes of Vesicovaginal Fistula Repairs in a Community Hospital in Liberia.

OBJECTIVES: To assess factors influencing short-term outcomes of vesicovaginal fistula (VVF) repairs in community-dwelling women of Liberia, Africa. METHODS: Forty patients who underwent VVF repairs were analyzed. Primary outcome was continence status at 14 days post repair. Factors influencing continence status were characterized. RESULTS: The mean duration of leakage was 9.6 ± 8.3 years, (3 months-28 years). Thirteen (33%) had previous repairs, and 6 (15%) had multiple fistula sites. Twenty-eight (70%) were continent at catheter removal. First time repairs had a higher continence rate compared to women with previous repairs, 78% and 54% respectively (p=0.15). Seven (47%) juxtaurethral repairs were considered failures, while only one (9%) juxtacervical fistulas remained incontinent (p=0.069). Controlling for duration of leakage, women with previous repairs were significantly less likely to be continent (p = 0.04; adjusted OR = 0.07; 95% CI: 0.005, 0.83). CONCLUSIONS: Patients with previous VVF repairs and juxtaurethral fistulae experience lower success rates; surgery remains an effective treatment for many VVF patients.