

Groin Hernia – Laparoscopic or Open

I. Consent

- Explains indications and alternatives (including non-operative)
- Explains general complications (anaesthetic/bleeding/infection)
- Explains specific complications e.g recurrence, testicular ischaemia, neuralgia, vascular injury/haematoma, bowel/bladder injury, open conversion (if laparoscopic repair)
- Asks for questions/checks understanding
- Explains postoperative course/lifting exclusions

II. Pre operation planning

- Reviews notes regarding condition
- Identifies any complicating factors eg obesity, previous repair, loss of domain
- Correctly identifies and marks side
- Aware of clinical indications
- Aware of significant co-morbidities - obesity, renal disease, etc.
- Knows relevant results
- Has reviewed relevant imaging

III. Pre operative preparation

- WHO Safety check and team time out
- Consideration of DVT prophylaxis and antibiotic prophylaxis
- Ensures specialised equipment available as required
- Patient is positioned appropriately
- Prepares and drapes appropriately

IV. Exposure and closure

- Correct incision (site and length)
- Appropriate layered wound closure (including tension, spacing, suture choice and dressing)

V. Intra operative technique: global (G) and task-specific items (T)

- Opens external oblique to display inguinal canal clearly (if open repair) (T)
- Mobilises the cord structures/sac efficiently (T)
- Can clearly dissect out the peritoneal sac (T)
- Maintains careful haemostasis with appropriate techniques (G)
- Deals with any unexpected findings (eg sliding hernia) comfortably (G)
- Effects a sound mesh repair of defect (T)
- Chooses appropriate prosthetic mesh (T)
- Careful and precise tissue handling (G)
- Is logical in progress through operative steps (G)
- Uses assistant/retraction in a helpful way (G)
- Uses correct instruments in appropriate ways (G)
- Uses local anaesthetic as appropriate (G)

VI. Post operative management

- Gets the patient off the table safely
- Gives appropriate postoperative instructions
- Documents the operation clearly