

## Session V, Miscellaneous II

### SV1: FEMORAL HERNIA IN PEDIATRIC PATIENTS: A DIAGNOSTIC CHALLENGE

Belén Aneiros Castro\*<sup>1</sup>, Indalecio Cano Novillo<sup>1</sup>, Araceli García Vázquez<sup>1</sup>, Leonor Melero Guardia<sup>1</sup>, Isabel Carrillo Arroyo<sup>1</sup>, Jesús Vicente Redondo Sedano<sup>1</sup>, María López Díaz<sup>1</sup>, Raquel Tejedor Sánchez<sup>1</sup>, María Isabel Benavent Gordo<sup>1</sup>, and Andrés Gómez Fraile<sup>1</sup>

E-mail: Belén Aneiros Castro — belenaneiroscaastro@gmail.com

<sup>1</sup>Hospital 12 de Octubre, Madrid, Spain

**Background** Femoral hernias in children are very uncommon. Although its incidence is not known definitely, it is estimated to be lower than 1% of all inguinal hernias. Because of its rarity, preoperative misdiagnosis ranges from 40 to 75%, which can lead to an increased morbidity. The aim of this study is to evaluate the results of the laparoscopic approach for the treatment of these hernias.

**Materials and methods** Between January 2000 to December 2015, 687 pediatric patients underwent laparoscopic inguinal hernia repair in our center. We retrospectively analyzed patient demographics, clinical data, surgical records and postoperative outcomes.

**Results** We laparoscopically repaired 18 femoral hernias in 16 patients (9 right, 5 left and 2 bilateral). The mean age of the patients was 8.06 years. There were 7 males and 9 females. Six cases (33.3%) were recurrences of previous open herniotomies and four patients were diagnosed preoperatively as indirect inguinal hernia (25%). The mean operative time was 59.16 minutes. No conversion was performed. There were not intraoperative complications. The mean length of stay was 0.6 days. There was no recurrence in any case.

**Conclusions** Laparoscopic technique is safe and effective for the treatment of femoral hernias in children. Additionally, it is an excellent diagnostic tool and it offers the possibility to perform simultaneous inguinal hernia repair. Therefore, we consider that it must be the treatment of choice for these defects to avoid misdiagnosis and unnecessary surgeries.

**Key words** femoral hernia, pediatric hernia, laparoscopic surgery