

# Complications and Recurrence After Perineal Hernia Repair by Internal Obturator Muscle Transposition in 48 Dogs

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## Soft Tissue Surgery

### Objectives

To describe complications associated with internal obturator muscle transposition for perineal hernia repair and identify risk factors for recurrence.

### Methods

This retrospective study included dogs undergoing perineal hernia repair using internal obturator muscle transposition between 2016 and 2023. Follow-up data were collected from medical records or online owner questionnaires. A Chi-Square test was performed to identify risk factors for recurrence, including testicular and prostatic pathologies, organopexy, surgeon experience, postoperative tenesmus and unilateral versus bilateral hernias.

### Results

Forty-eight male dogs of various breeds were included. Bilateral hernias were found in 63% (30/48) of cases. Testicular pathology was present in 13% (6/48) of dogs. Immediate postoperative complications occurred in 18% (9/48), with rectal prolapse as the most common. At one month postoperatively, 31% (11/35) of dogs had complications, primarily tenesmus. Long-term recurrence was observed in 26% (6/23) of dogs, with a median recurrence time of 3-4 months. None of the tested risk factors were significantly associated with recurrence. However, dogs with testicular pathology had a higher recurrence rate (OR 3.33), suggesting a potential hormonal influence on healing in the perineal region.

### Statement (conclusions)

Internal obturator muscle transposition for perineal hernia repair is associated with a moderate rate of complications and recurrence. Testicular pathology may increase the risk of recurrence, possibly due to hormonal factors. Further studies are needed to confirm these findings and identify strategies to improve outcomes.