A Case of Rectovaginal Fistula Treated with Bovine Pericardial Tissue

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Clinical Image

A rectovaginal fistula is a communication between the anterior wall of the rectum and the posterior wall of the vagina. Many surgical approaches have been proposed, but its treatment is still considered complicated. A 34-year-old patient presented with a low rectovaginal fistula of about 2.5 cm, resulting from obstetric injury during eutocic delivery. The patient was already treated with conservative therapies. We decided to adopt a surgical approach. After dissection of the rectovaginal septum and fistulectomy (Figure 1), a mesh of bovine pericardial tissue was fixed in the rectovaginal space (Figure 2). Three months after surgery, a transrectal ultrasound showed a good and complete integration of the patch. One year follow up showed no recurrence of the fistula and no complications.

Figure 1: Dissection of the rectovaginal septum and fistulectomy.

Figure 2: A mesh of bovine pericardial tissue was fixed in the rectovaginal space.