Assessing Outcomes Following Vesicovaginal Fistula Repair

10 to 14 days postoperatively, before removing Foley catheter, **perform** a dye test

Positive dye test

- **Leave** Foley catheter in for **7 more days**
- During this time, **observe** if patient is leaking any urine while walking, sitting, lying in bed
- **Consider** nursing patient in prone position when in bed

During the **7 days**:
Wetness is absent or decreasing

- If wetness is absent, **leave** Foley catheter in place until patient has been dry for **7 days**
- If wetness is decreasing, **consider leaving** Foley catheter in place for up to 4 weeks until the patient is dry, then **keep** in situ for **7 additional days**

During the **7 days**:

- Wetness is increasing or staying the same
- And amount of urine in drainage bag/bucket, is decreasing or staying the same

- **Remove** Foley catheter

❖ **Outcome: Fistula not closed/ repair broken and patient incontinent of urine**

Schedule repeat operation, usually in 3 months' time and **counsel** patient, **offering** ongoing hygiene and emotional support

Negative dye test

- **Remove** Foley catheter
- **Ask** patient to drink sufficient fluids to ensure urine is clear
- Throughout the next 24 – 48 hours, **measure** and **record** patient's voided volume and postvoid residual volume of urine 3 times (even if patient is wet)

Residual volume is less than 100 mL and less than 50% of voided amount

The day after the Foley catheter has been removed, **carry out** pad test:

- **Ask** patient to drink 500 mL of water, and then to wear a pad while walking and doing normal activities for 60 minutes
- If scales are available, **weigh** pad before and after, **subtracting** initial dry weight from wet weight to get an objective measure of urinary leakage and **record** findings
- If scales are not available, **check** if pad is wet and **record** findings

Pad is dry

❖ **Outcome: Fistula closed and patient continent of urine (cured)**

A few days after Foley catheter removal, **arrange** for discharge and usual follow-up

Pad is wet

❖ **Outcome: Fistula closed but patient has ongoing urinary incontinence**

Investigate and **plan** appropriate management

Residual volume is greater than 100 mL or greater than 50% of voided amount

❖ **Outcome: Fistula closed but patient has urinary retention**

Teach clean intermittent self-catheterisation 3 times a day until patient is emptying bladder completely or residual volume is less than 100 mL and less than 50% of voided amount

Legend

- Action
- Positive result
- Negative result

From the surgical perspective, a vesicovaginal fistula repair can be confirmed as successful if:

- ✓ The **dye test is negative** prior to removal of the Foley catheter (normally, between 10-14 days postoperatively).
- ✓ After the Foley catheter has been removed, the **postvoid residual volume of urine is less than 100 mL and less than 50% of the voided amount**.
- ✓ The **pad is dry** the day after the Foley catheter has been removed.