

Center for Reconstructive Urethral Surgery



GUIDO BARBAGLI, M.D.

Arezzo - Italy

e-mail: info@urethralcenter.it

Website: www.urethralcenter.it

Thank you!

Society of Government Service Urologists

58th Annual Kimbrough Seminar



**January 16 - 21, 2011
Sheraton Seattle Hotel
Seattle, Washington**

Andrew C. Peterson

e-mail: info@urethralcenter.it

website: www.urethralcenter.it

Center for Reconstructive Urethral Surgery

Thank you!



Jack McAninch



George D. Webster

Thank you!



Steven B. Brandes

e-mail: info@urethralcenter.it

website: www.urethralcenter.it

Thank you!

In conclusion, I like to thanks all the American Urologists involved in the Reconstructive Urethral Surgery for the teaching, support, encouragement and new idea and suggestions they provided me in the last 15 years.

Without your incredible support my career brief newer was born and developed.

Guido Barbagli

Bulbar urethroplasty

e-mail: info@urethralcenter.it

website: www.urethralcenter.it

Bulbar urethra

Basically, the surgical technique for the repair of bulbar urethral strictures is selected according to the stricture etiology and site (distal vs proximal)



Surgical technique according to etiology of bulbar urethral stricture

Trauma

End-to-end anastomosis
Augmented anastomotic repair

Instrumentation
Catheter
Infection
Other

Oral mucosa onlay

Long-Term Followup of Bulbar End-to-End Anastomosis: A Retrospective Analysis of 153 Patients in a Single Center Experience

Guido Barbagli, Michele De Angelis, Giuseppe Romano and Massimo Lazzeri*

From the Center for Urethral Reconstructive Surgery (GB), Unità Operativa Urologia, Ospedale San Donato (MDA, GR), Arezzo, and Department of Urology, Santa Chiara-Firenze, Florence (ML), Italy

Purpose: We performed a retrospective evaluation and statistical analysis of outcome in patients who underwent bulbar end-to-end anastomosis.

Materials and Methods: We reviewed 153 patients with an average age of 39 years who underwent bulbar end-to-end anastomosis between 1988 and 2006. Mean followup was 68 months. Stricture etiology was unknown (62.7%), catheter (14.4%), blunt perineal trauma (11.7%), instrumentation (9.8%), radiotherapy (0.7%) and infection (0.7%). Stricture length was 1 to 2 cm (in 59.5%), 2 to 3 cm (37.9%), 3 to 4 cm (1.9%) or 4 to 5 cm (0.7%). A total of 90 patients (59%) underwent dilation, internal urethrotomy, urethroplasty or multiple procedures before being referred to our center. Clinical outcome was considered a treatment failure when any postoperative instrumentation was needed. The prevalence of postoperative sexual dysfunction was investigated using a nonvalidated questionnaire.

Results: Of 153 cases 139 (90.8%) were successful and 14 (9.2%) were treatment failures. Treatment failure was managed with urethrotomy in 9 cases, end-to-end anastomosis in 2, buccal mucosal graft urethroplasty in 1 and 2-stage repair in 2. Of 14 cases of failure 12 had a satisfactory final outcome, 1 is still waiting for the second stage of urethroplasty and 1 underwent definitive perineostomy. There were 14 patients (23.3%) who experienced ejaculatory dysfunction, 1 (1.6%) a cold glans during erection, 7 (11.6%) a glans that was neither full nor swollen during erection and 11 (18.3%) had decreased glans sensitivity. No patients complained of penile chordee or impotence.

Conclusions: Bulbar end-to-end anastomosis has a success rate of 90.8%. Most patients were satisfied with the surgical outcome despite postoperative complications such as ejaculatory dysfunction, a glans that was neither full nor swollen during erection, or decreased penile sensitivity.

Key Words: urethra; urethral stricture; anastomosis, surgical; treatment outcome;

J Urol 2007; 178:2470-2473

Questionnaire to investigate sexual dysfunction after bulbar end-to-end anastomosis

Changes in Ejaculation

Did you complain of ejaculation disorders after the surgery?

Yes
No

Did you recognize changes in ejaculation after the surgery comparing it with your previous status?

Yes
No

Does ejaculation occur with difficult stream?

Yes
No

If Yes, what is the stream like?

No stream
Very poor spontaneous stream
The stream occurs only by manually compressing the perineum

Is the ejaculation difficulty present:

Always
Sometimes
Seldom

Did you have negative changes in the relationship with your partner due to difficult ejaculation?

Yes
No

Did you have children after the surgery?

Yes
No

**six questions to
investigate ejaculatory
disorders**

J Urol 2007; 178:2470-2473

Neurovascular Penile Disorders

Did you complain of penile erection disorders after the surgery?

Yes
No

Does your glans fully swell during erection?

Yes
No

If No:

Glans is not swollen
Glans is partially swollen
Glans is fully swollen at the beginning of erection, but it was not maintained fully swollen throughout the sexual activity

Did you have negative changes in your sexual activity due to this problem?

Yes
No

If Yes, what kind of problems did you recognize?

Psychological problems
Problems during vaginal intercourse
Other minor problems

Did you recognize a change in penile sensitivity after surgery?

Yes
No

If Yes, where did you localize sensitivity changes?

In the glans
In penile skin
In distal penile shaft
Including all penile shaft

What was the penile sensitivity like after surgery?

Decreased
Increased
Not specifically altered

Was the penile sensitivity changed in relation to:

Touch
Cold/hot
All stimulus

During the erection do you complain of cold glans?

Yes
No

Did you have negative changes in your sexual activity due to this problems?

Yes
No

**seven questions to
investigate neuro-vascular
penile disorders**

J Urol 2007; 178:2470-2473

e-mail: info@urethralcenter.it

website: www.urethralcenter.it

Final assessment of surgery

Are you satisfied of surgical outcome and what is your judgment of final results?

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| 1. Not satisfied | 1. Negative |
| 2. Poor satisfied | 2. Poor |
| 3. Satisfied | 3. Good |
| 4. Very satisfied | 4. Excellent |

If your answer was 1 or 2

Is it because you did not improve urinary function?

Is it because your sexual activity was worsened?

Would you repeat the surgery?

Yes

No

If No, why?

Due to postoperative pain

Due to psychological problems

Because the outcome was different from what I foresaw

Two questions to investigate patient satisfaction

J Urol 2007; 178:2470-2473

This non-validated questionnaire was administered to 60 out of 153 patients who underwent bulbar end-to-end anastomosis, according to the following inclusion criteria:

- ❖ **Age 20 to 50 years old**
- ❖ **No diabetes or vascular diseases**
- ❖ **No previous failed open urethroplasty**
- ❖ **No further surgery required after the anastomosis**

J Urol 2007; 178:2470-2473

Results

12 (20%) patients showed decreased ejaculation force.

11 (18.3%) patients complained of decreased sensitivity of the glans or distal penile shaft.

7 (11.6%) patients complained of a glans that was neither full nor swollen during erection.

2 (3.3%) patients showed ejaculation was possible only by manually compressing the perineum at the level of the urethral bulb.

1 (1.6%) patient had a cold glans during erection.

J Urol 2007; 178:2470-2473

Results

19/60 patients (31.6%) showed minor sexual dysfunctions

14/60 patients (23.3%) showed ejaculatory dysfunction

**2/60 (3.3%) patients declared that they were dissatisfied
with the outcome of surgery**

J Urol 2007; 178:2470-2473

Evaluation of the result after bulbar end-to-end anastomosis

objective

Clinical assessment

Uroflowmetry

Urethrography

Urethral sonography

Urethroscopy

90.8% success



subjective

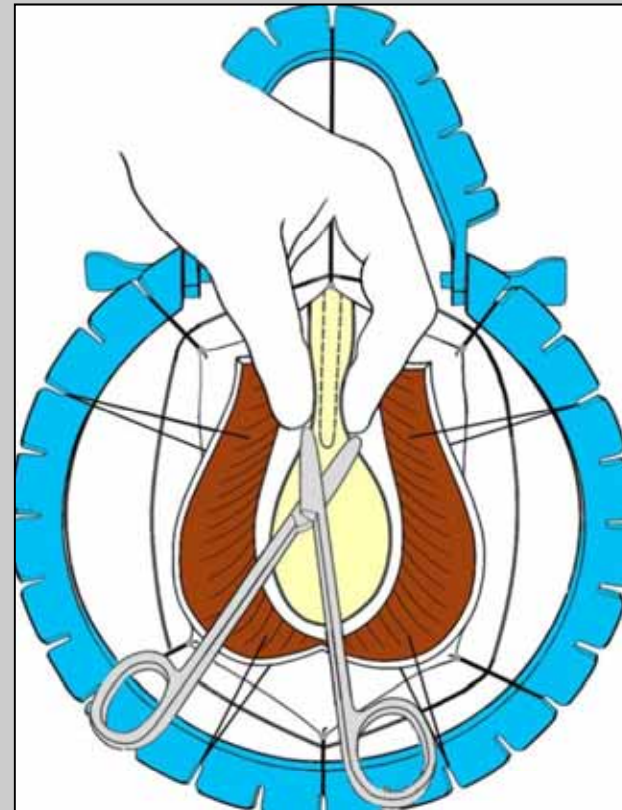
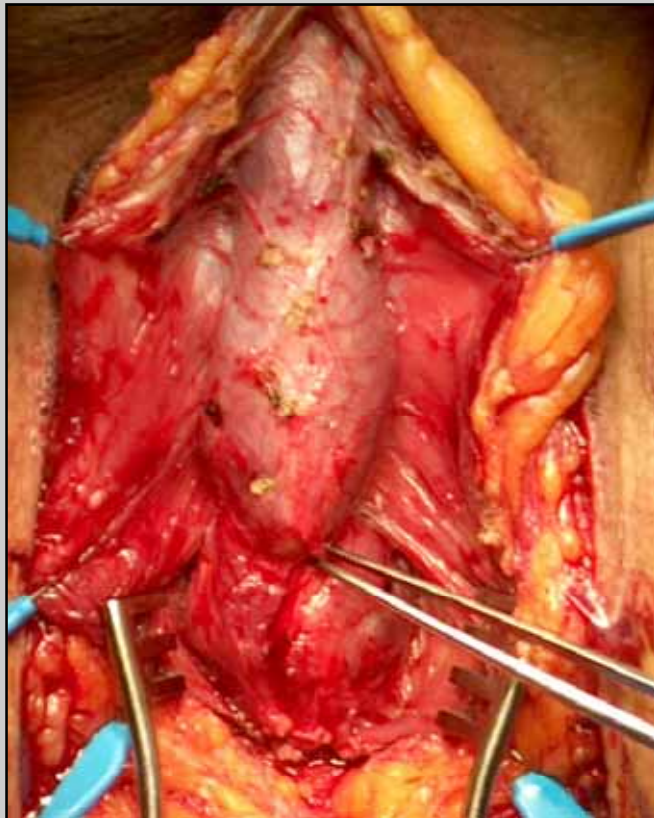
Questionnaire



31.6% sexual dysfunctions

23.3% ejaculatory dysfunction

According to the result of this questionnaire we decide to change our clinical approach to bulbar urethral stricture:



We transect the urethra only in **traumatic stricture**

Surgical technique according to site of bulbar urethral stricture



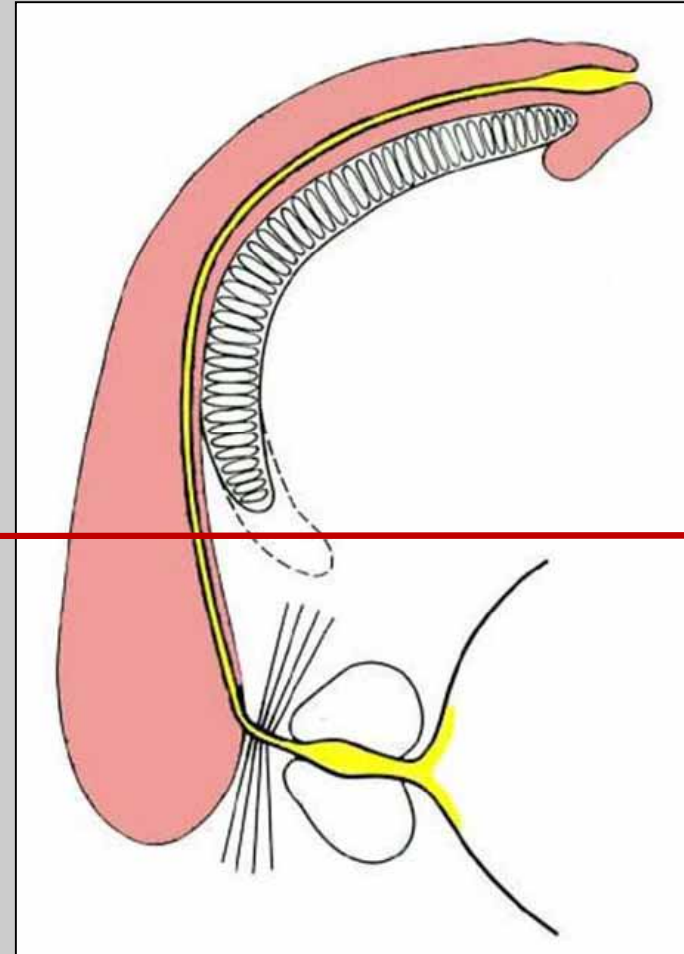
Distal

Dorsal onlay



Proximal

Ventral onlay

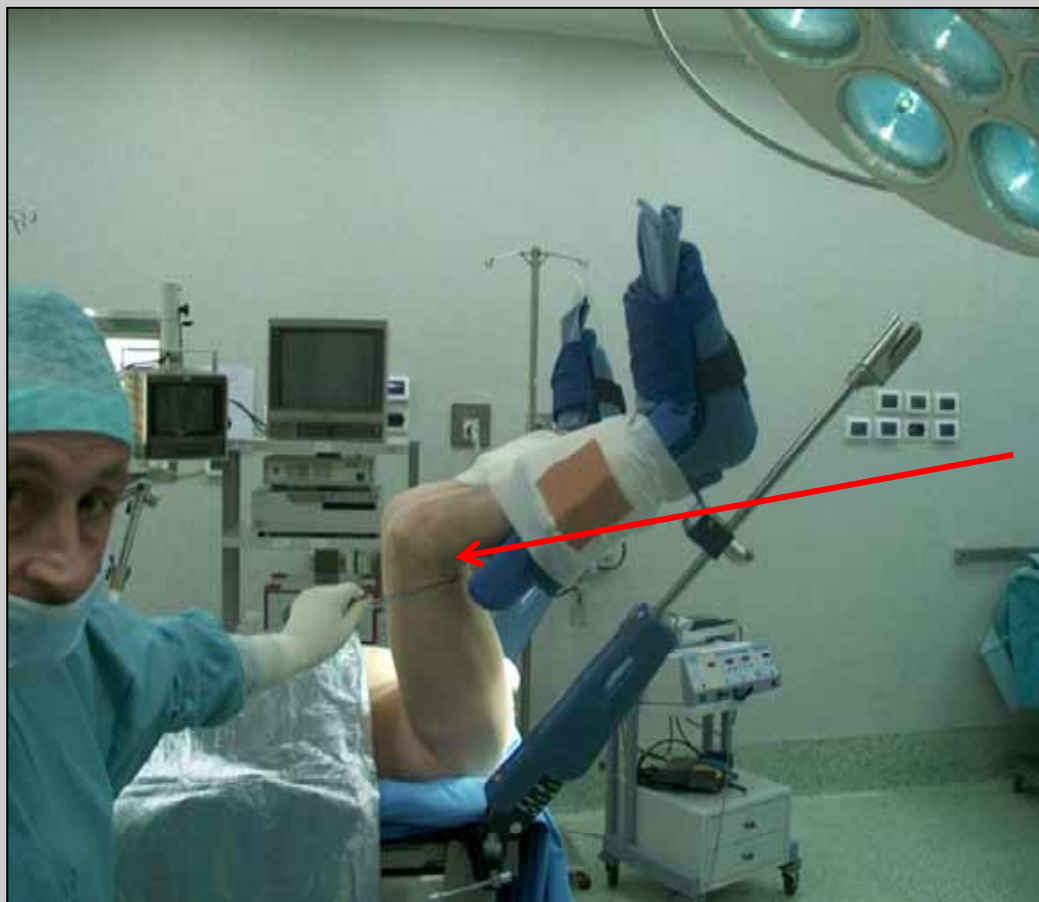


Preparation of the patient for bulbar urethroplasty



Simple lithotomy position

Preparation of the patient for bulbar urethroplasty



Allen stirrups

Preparation of the patient for bulbar urethroplasty



Sequential inflatable compression sleeves

Two surgical teams work simultaneously



McAninch – San Francisco - USA

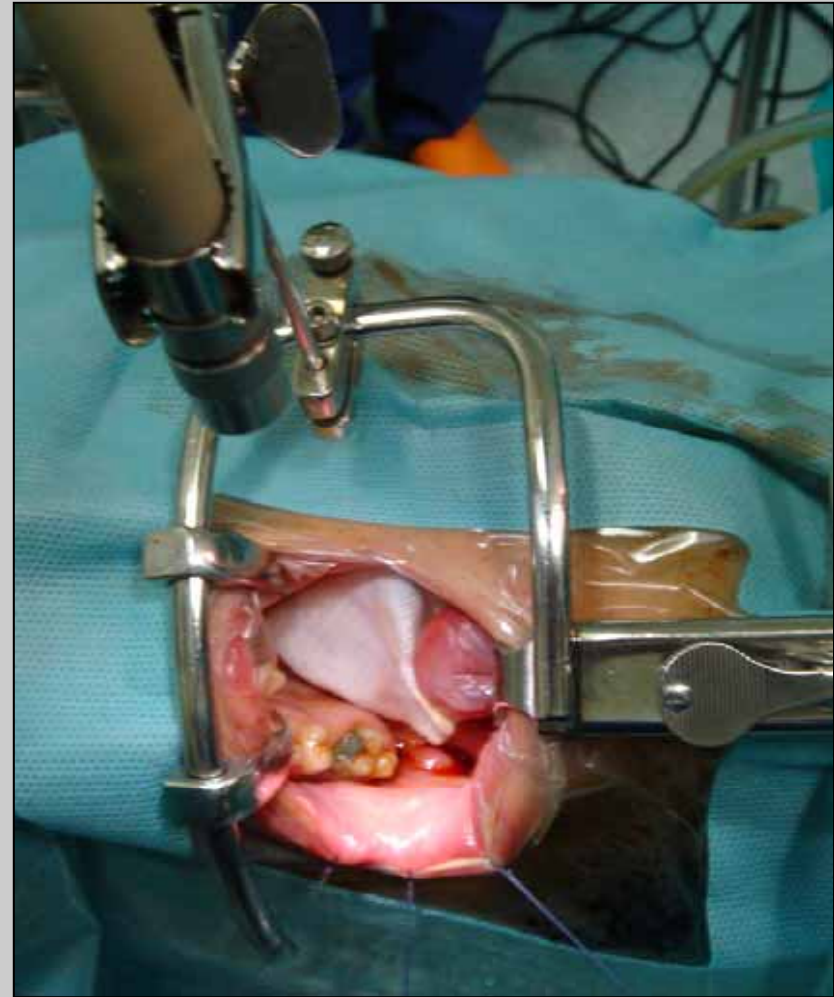
Two sets of surgical instruments



Oral mucosa



Urethroplasty



Appropriate mouth retractor with its own light



Only one assistant is needed to harvest the oral graft

e-mail: info@urethralcenter.it

website: www.urethralcenter.it

Advantages of the double team



```
graph TD; A[Advantages of the double team] --> B[decrease in surgical time of ~ one hour]; A --> C[decrease in contamination in surgery]; A --> D[provides training opportunity for the young assistant interested in learning urethral surgery];
```

**decrease in
surgical time
of ~ one hour**

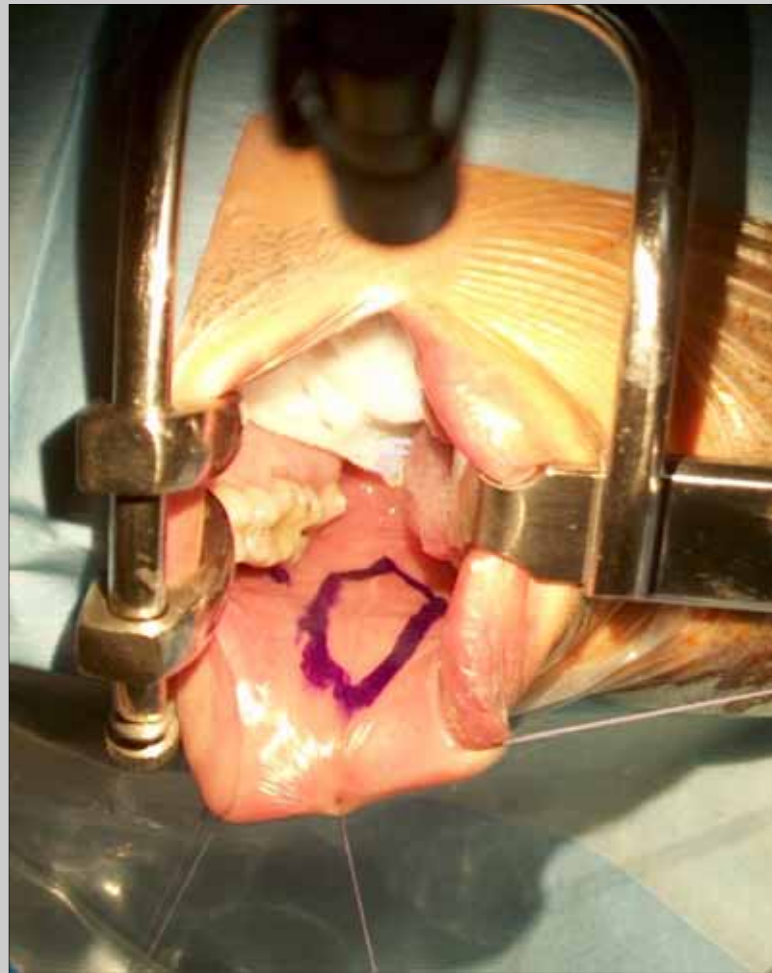
**decrease in
contamination in
surgery**

**provides training
opportunity for the young
assistant interested in
learning urethral surgery**

Harvesting the oral mucosa

Surgical technique

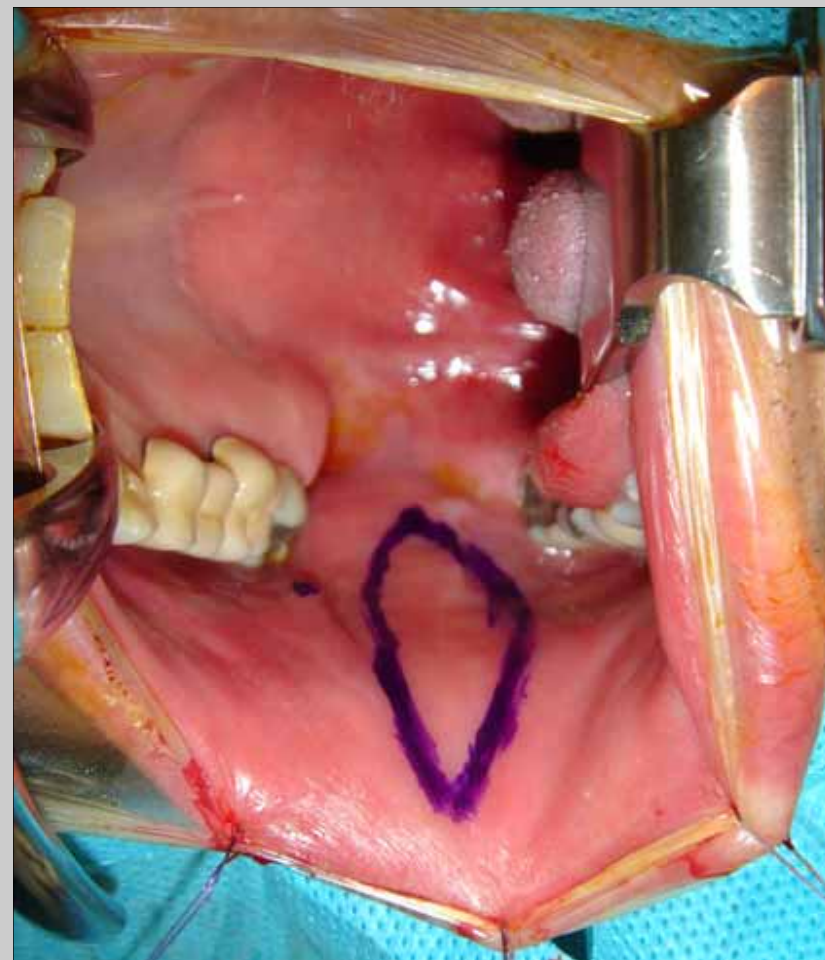
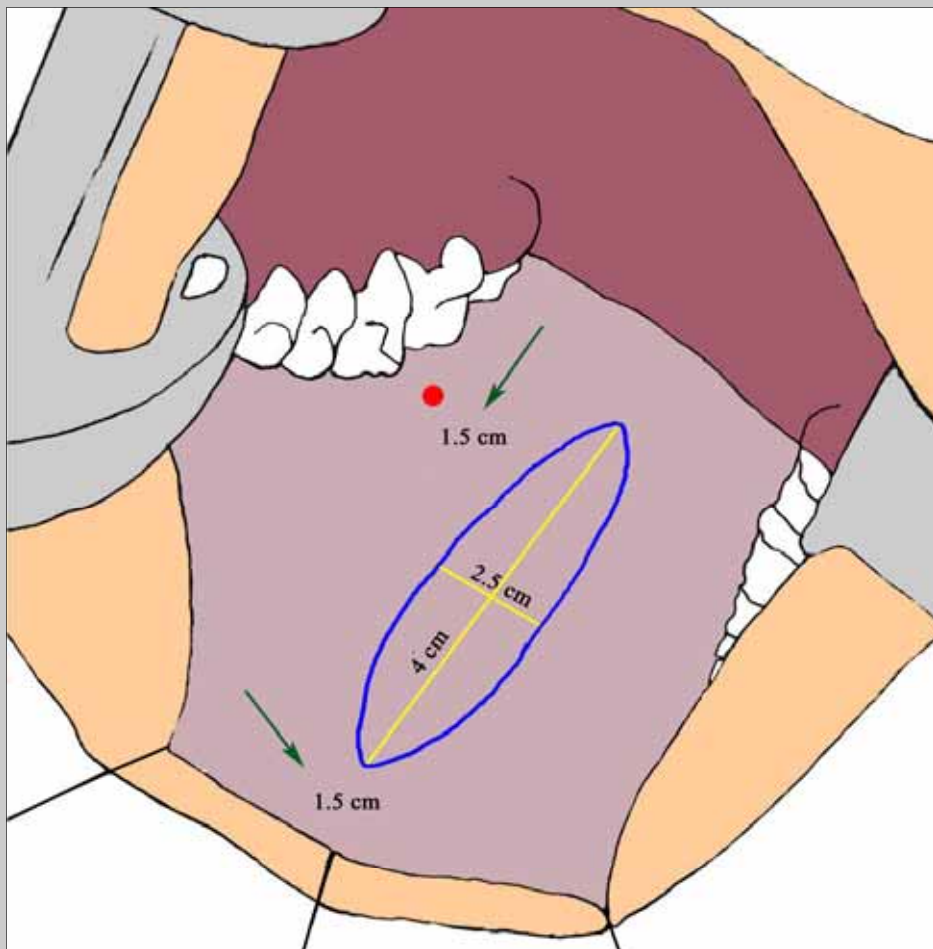
Harvesting oral mucosal graft from the cheek

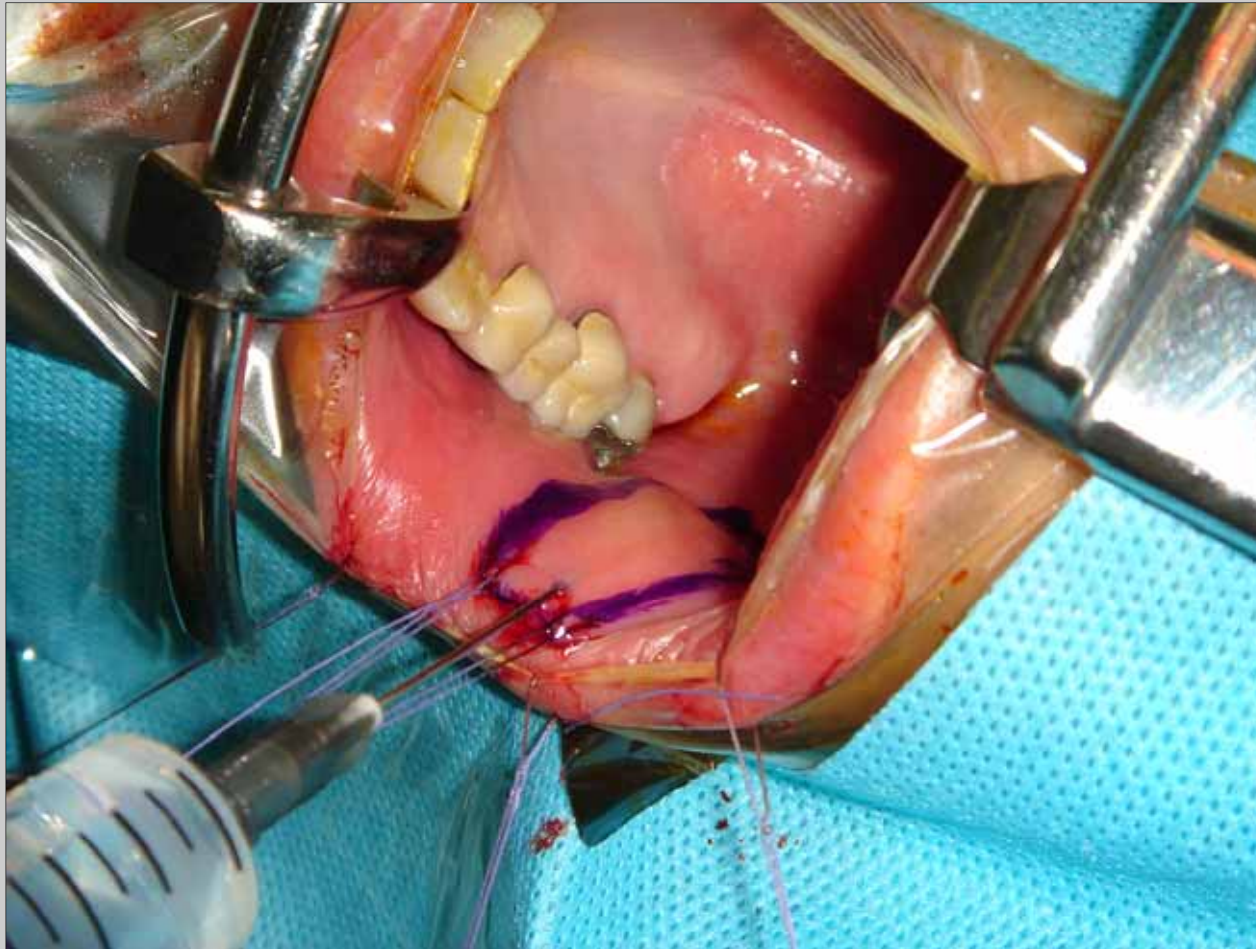


Surgical steps

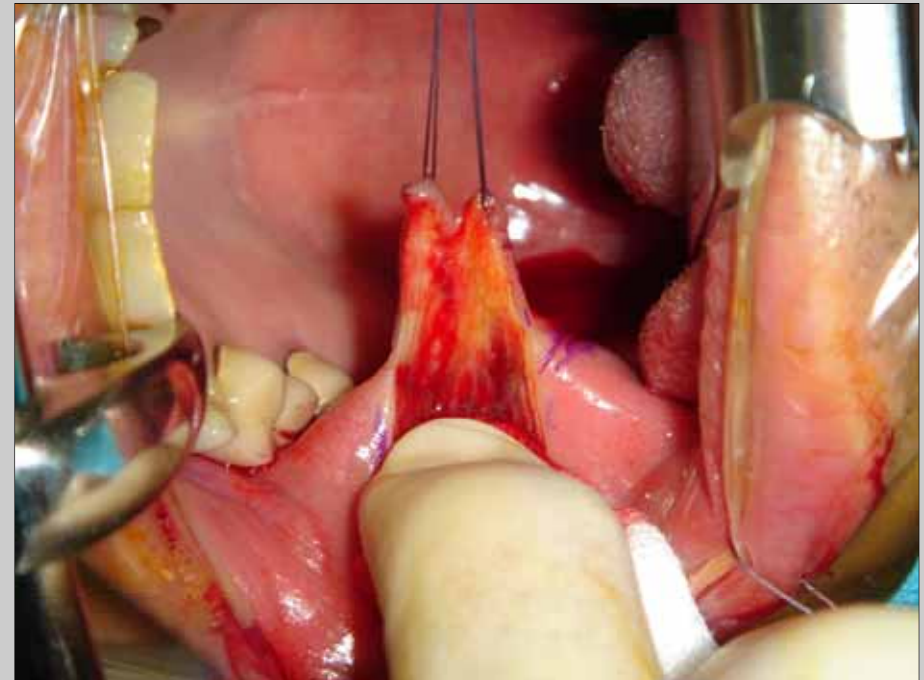
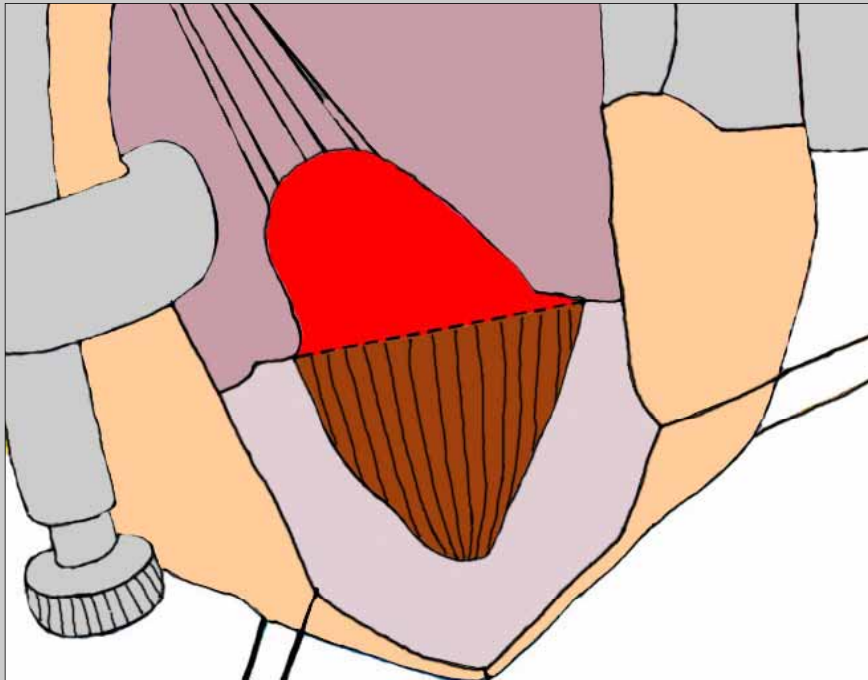
**The patient is intubated through the nose,
allowing the mouth to be completely free**

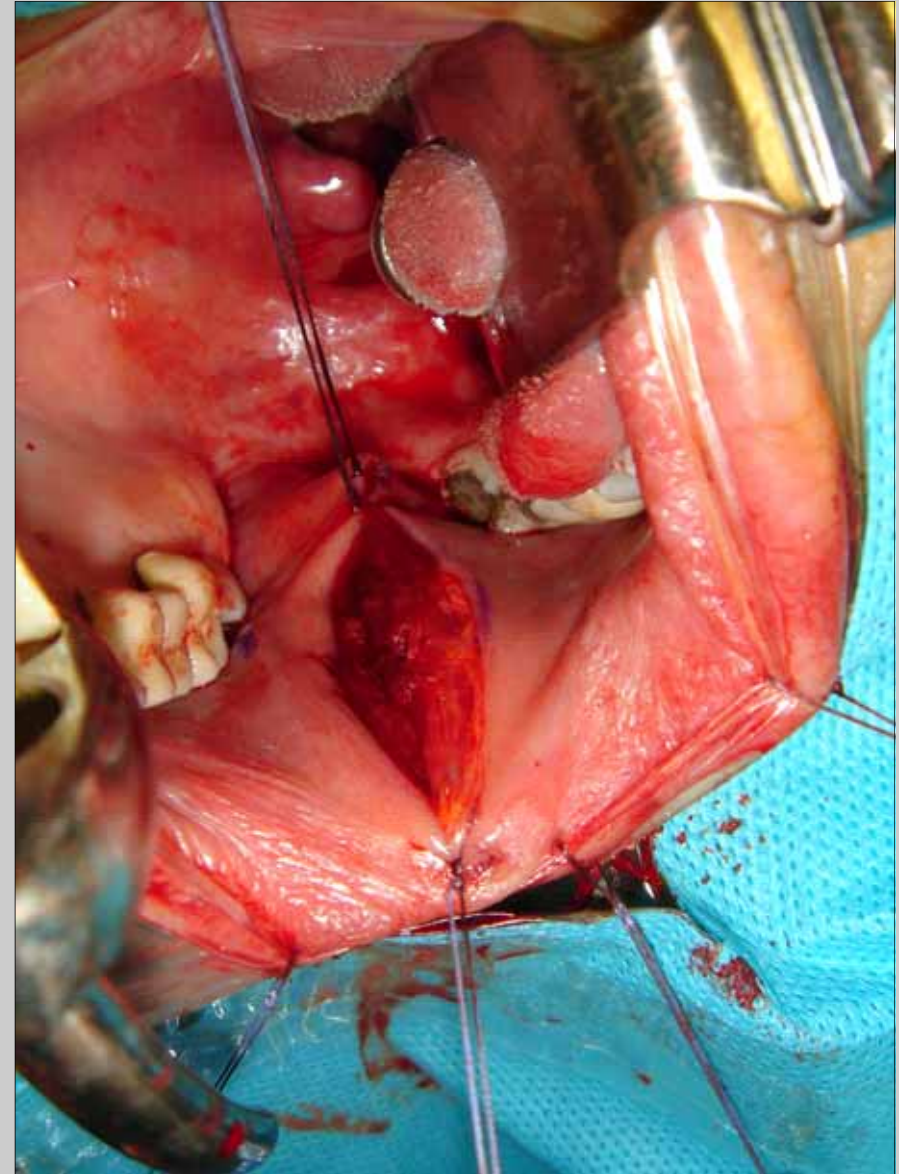
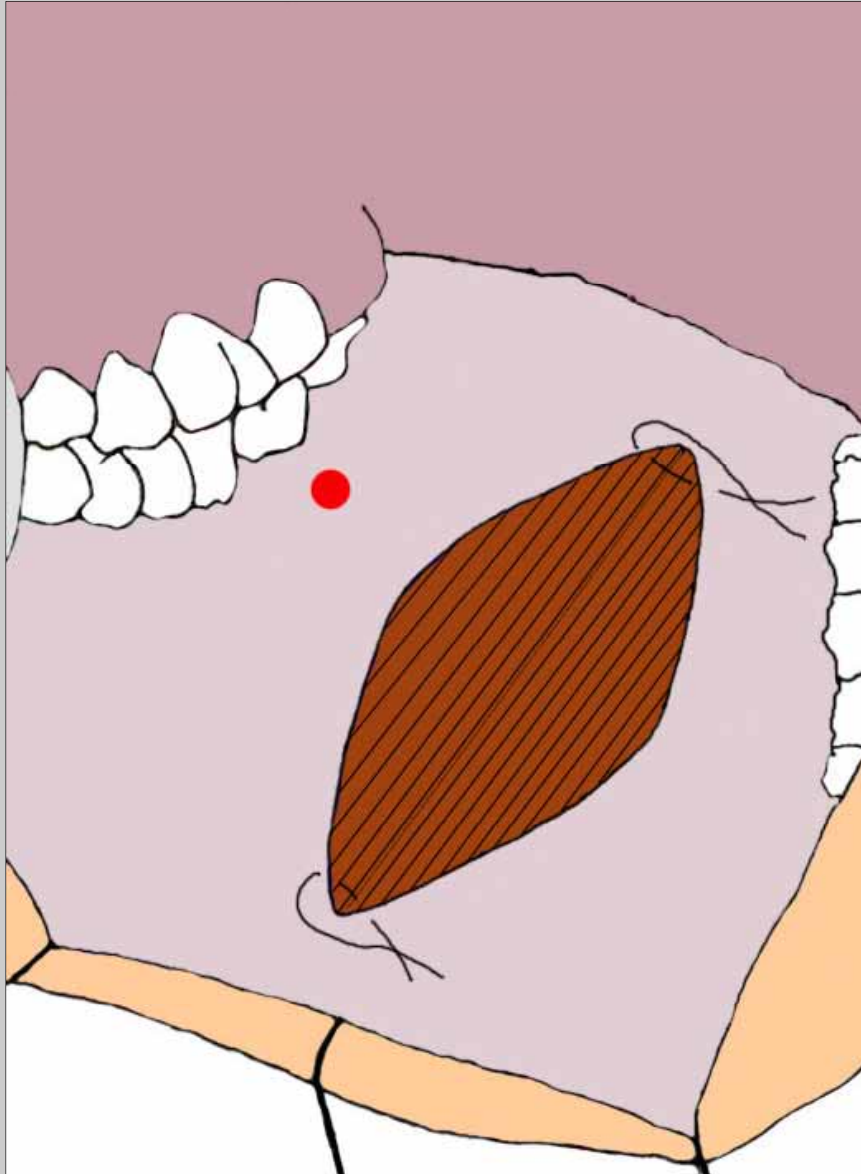


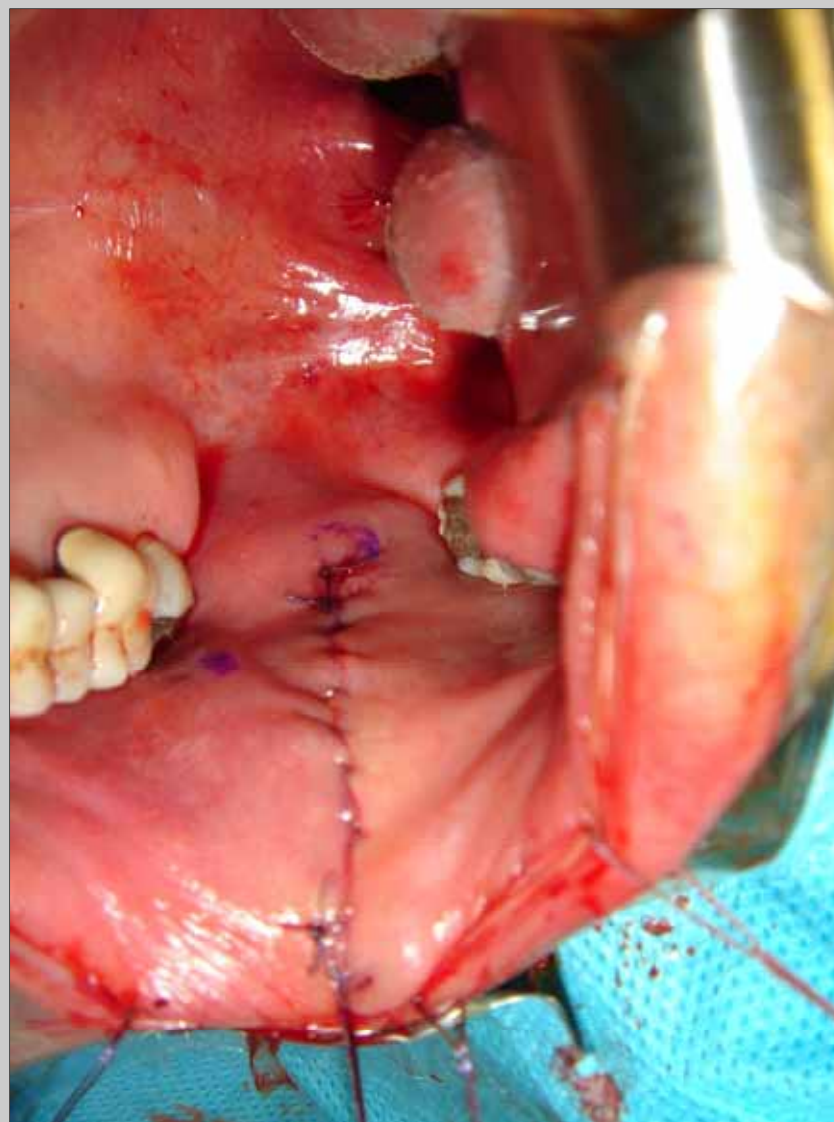
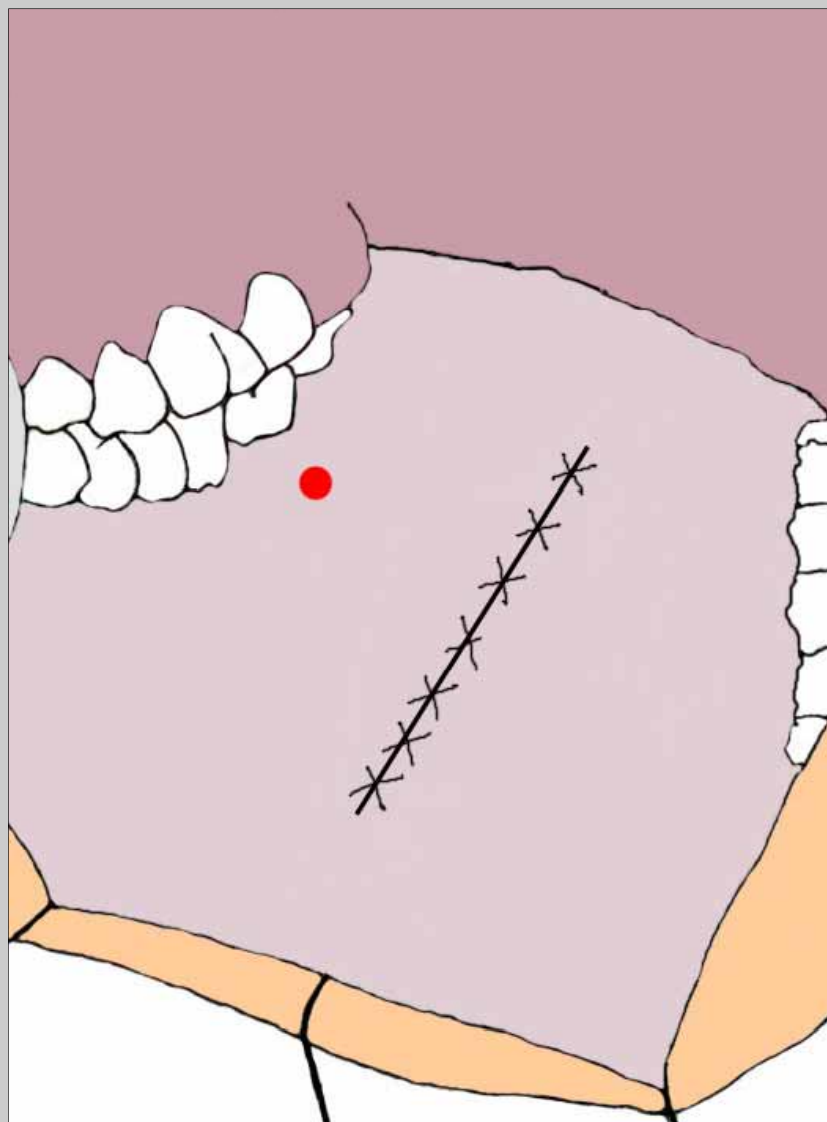




Lidocaine HCL 1% with epinephrine (1:100,000)







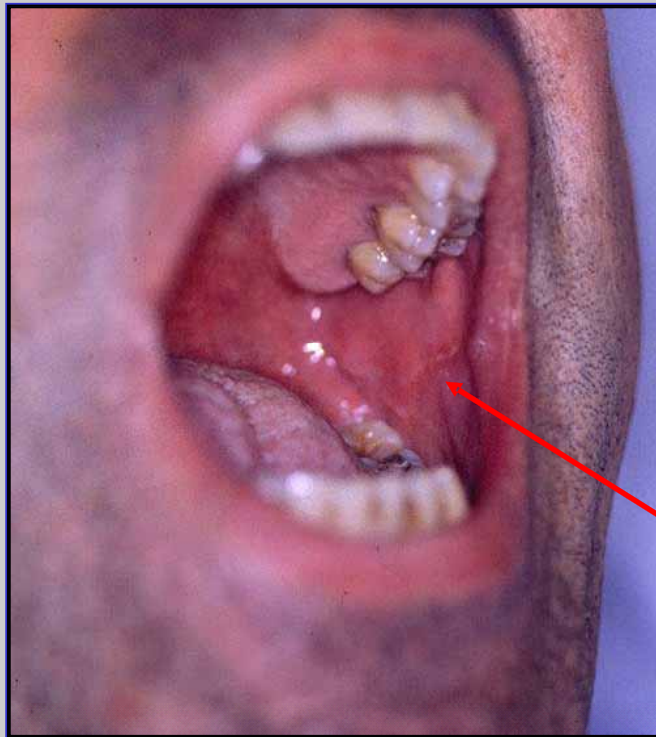


4 cm



6 cm

Morbidity of oral mucosa graft harvesting from a single cheek



Barbagli G. et al, Eur Urol 2010; 58: 33-41

Patient satisfaction

“ Would you undergo oral mucosa graft harvesting using this technique again? ”

Yes : 98% of patients

No : 2% of patients

Barbagli G. et al, Eur Urol 2010; 58: 33-41

Harvesting oral mucosal graft from the tongue



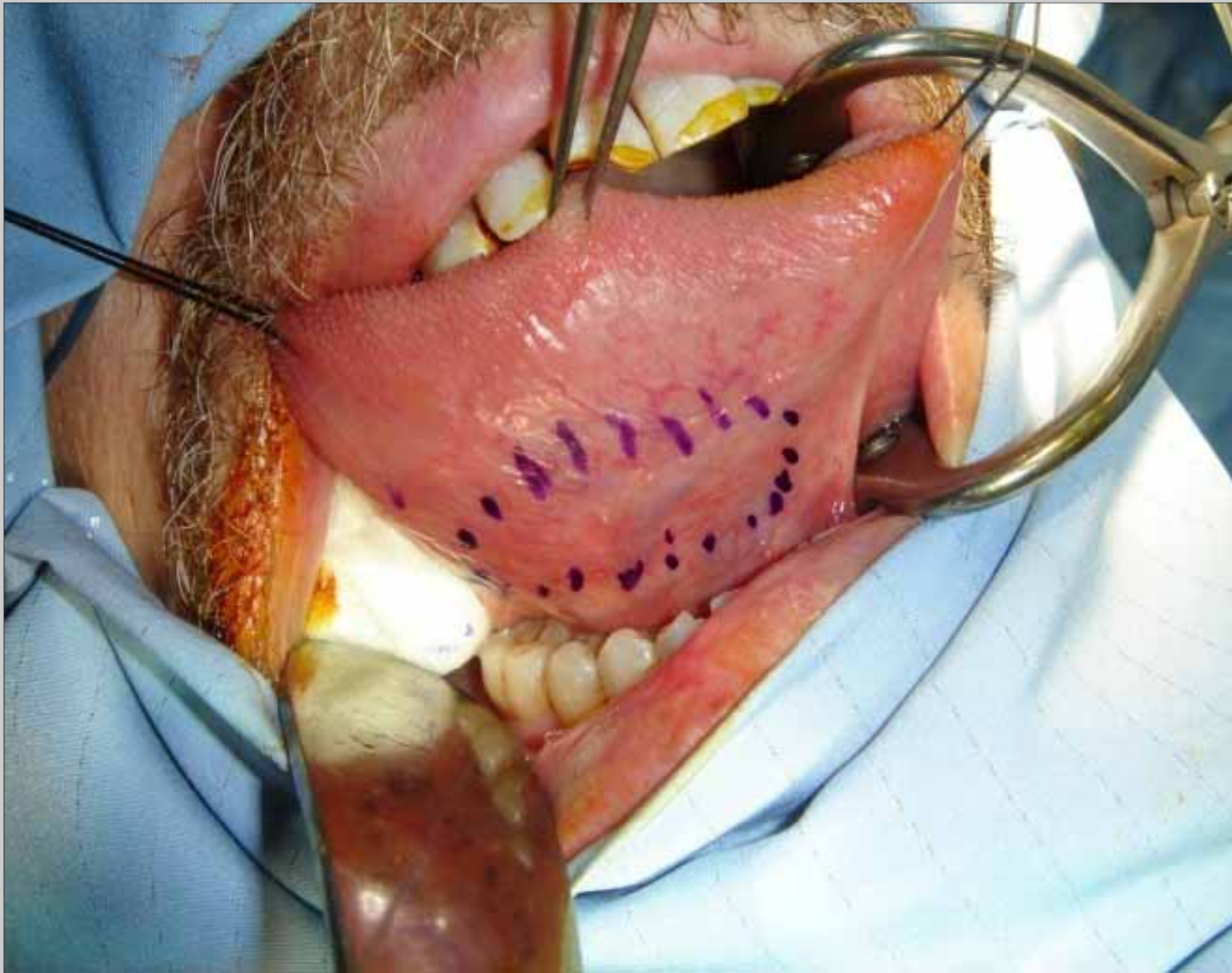
Surgical steps

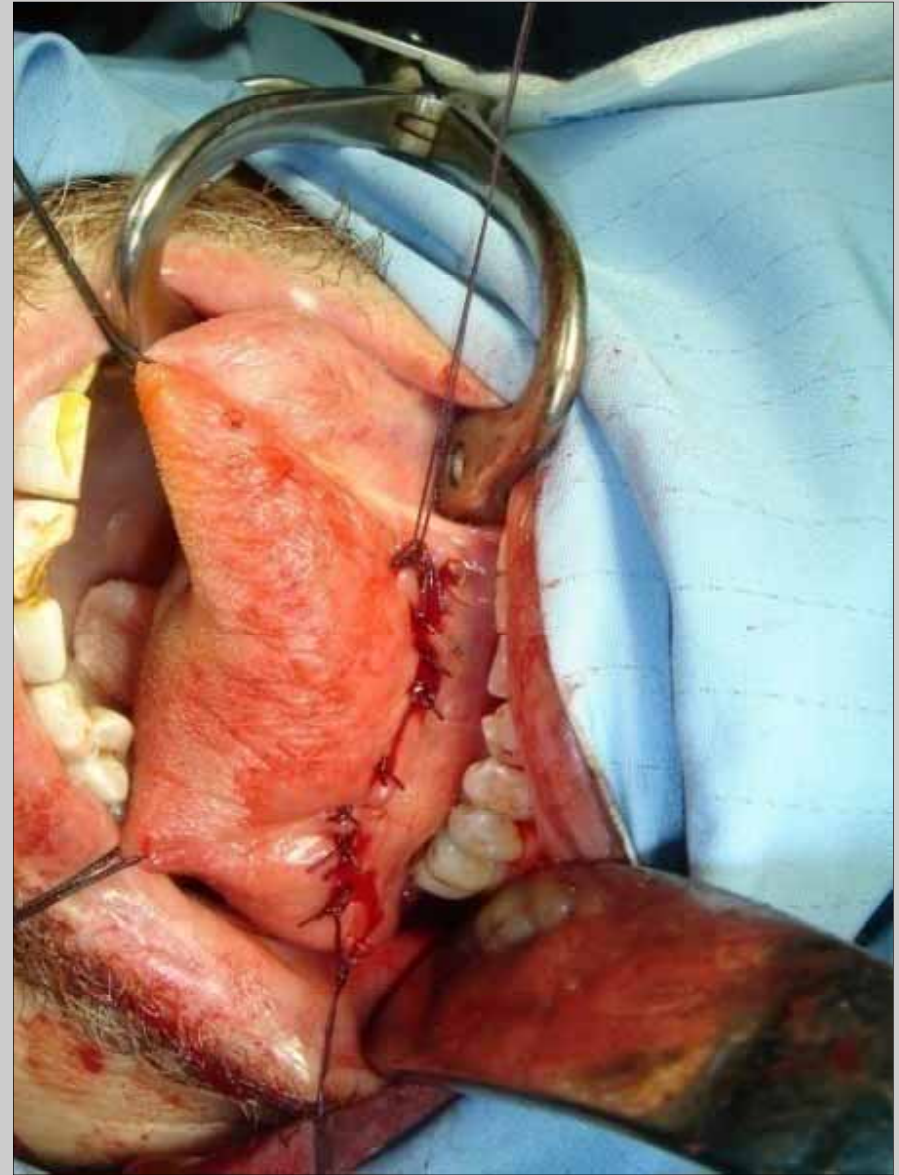
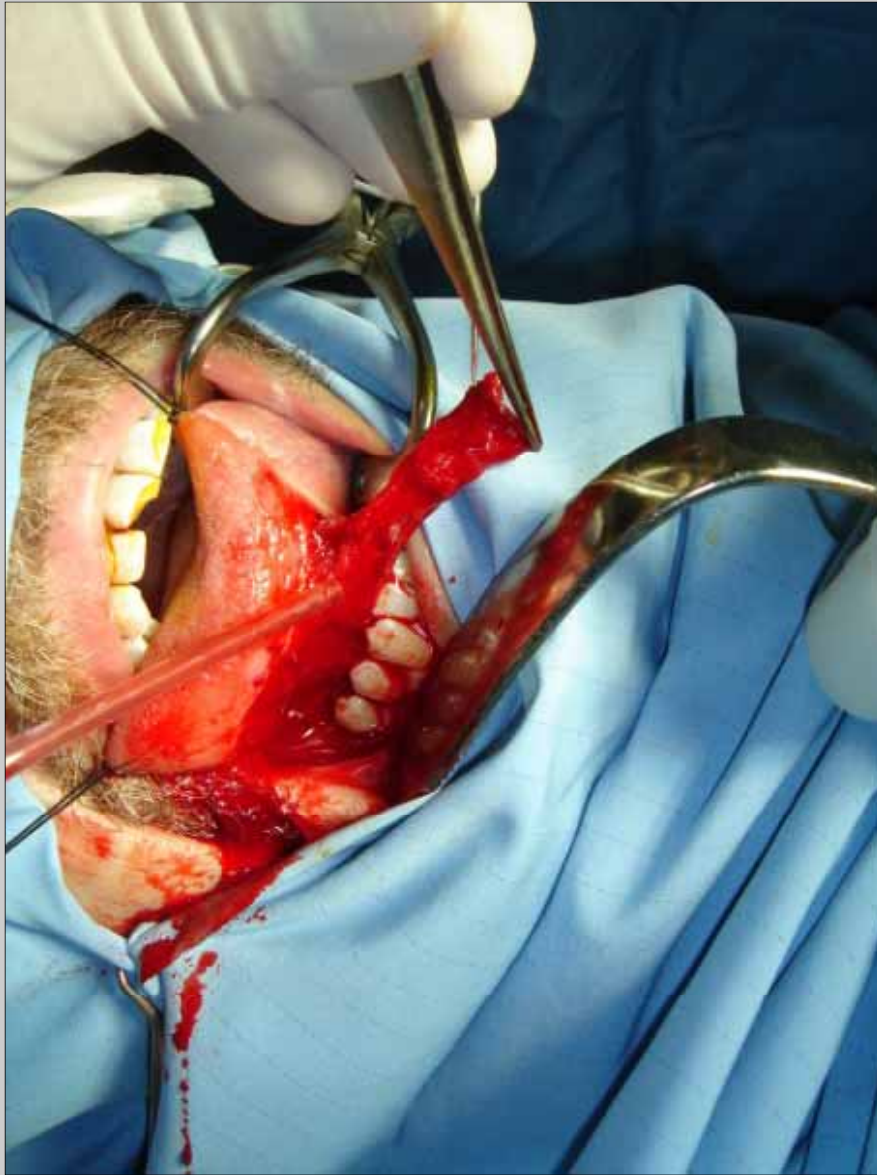


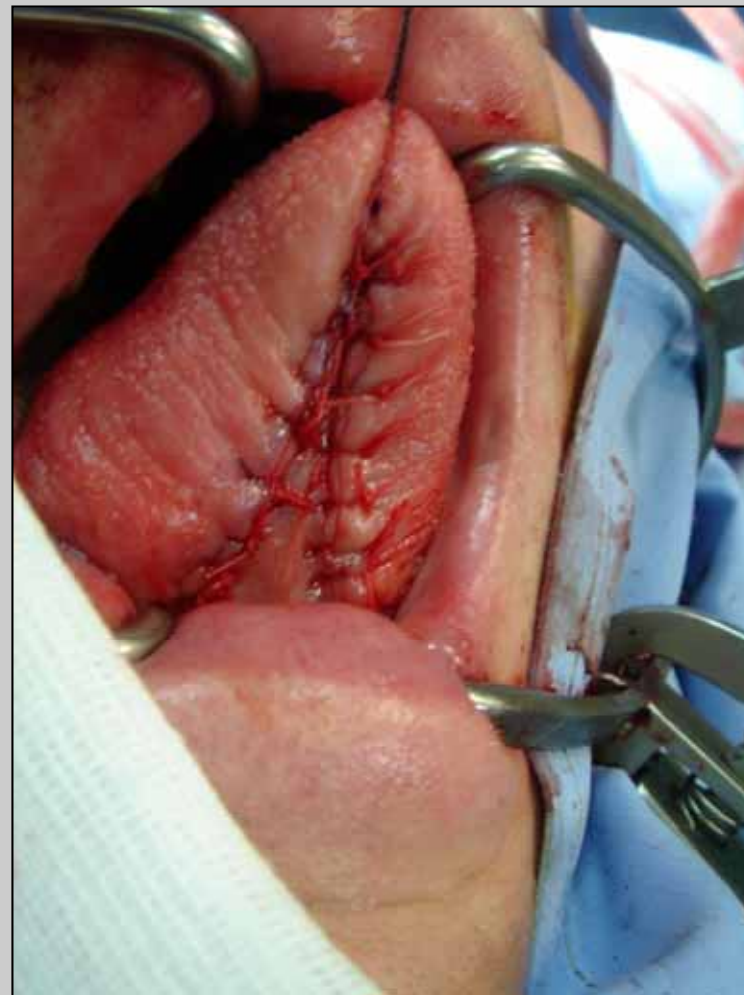
Wharton's duct



Lingual nerve







Double grafts harvesting



The **tongue** represents the best alternative to the cheek

Preparation of the patient for bulbar urethroplasty



**Pre-operative
urethroscopy**



Insert Sensor guide wire

Preparation of the patient for bulbar urethroplasty



Insert Sensor guide wire

Preparation of the patient for bulbar urethroplasty



**Inject methylene blue inside
the urethra
(G. Webster)**

Preparation of the patient for bulbar urethroplasty

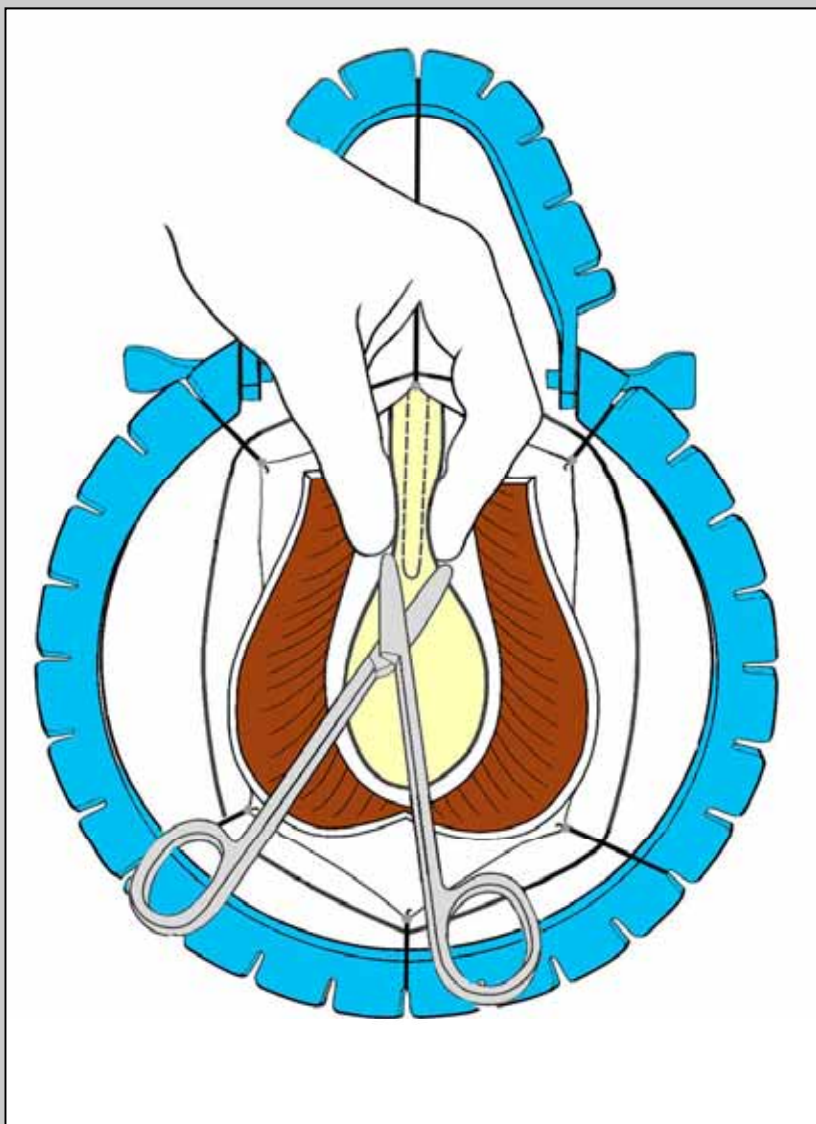


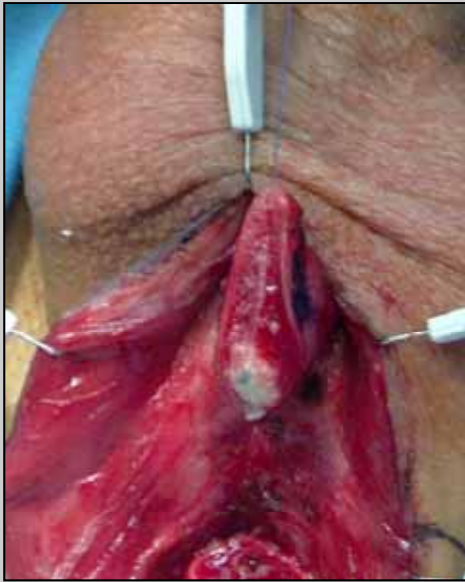
Calibrate the distal urethra and identify the distal stop

1 - 2 cm traumatic bulbar urethral stricture

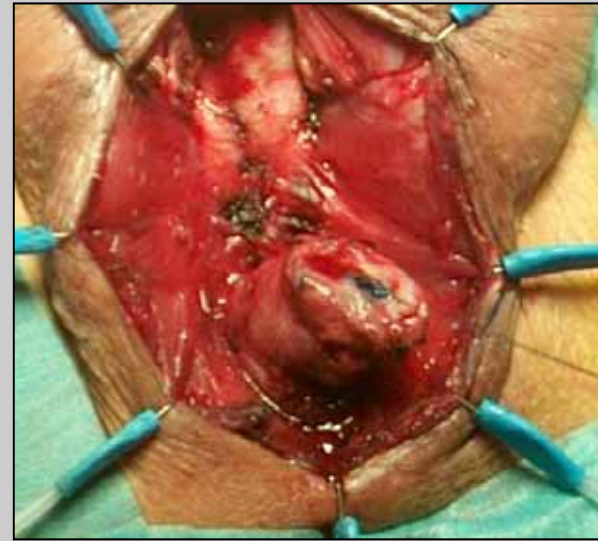


End-to-end anastomosis



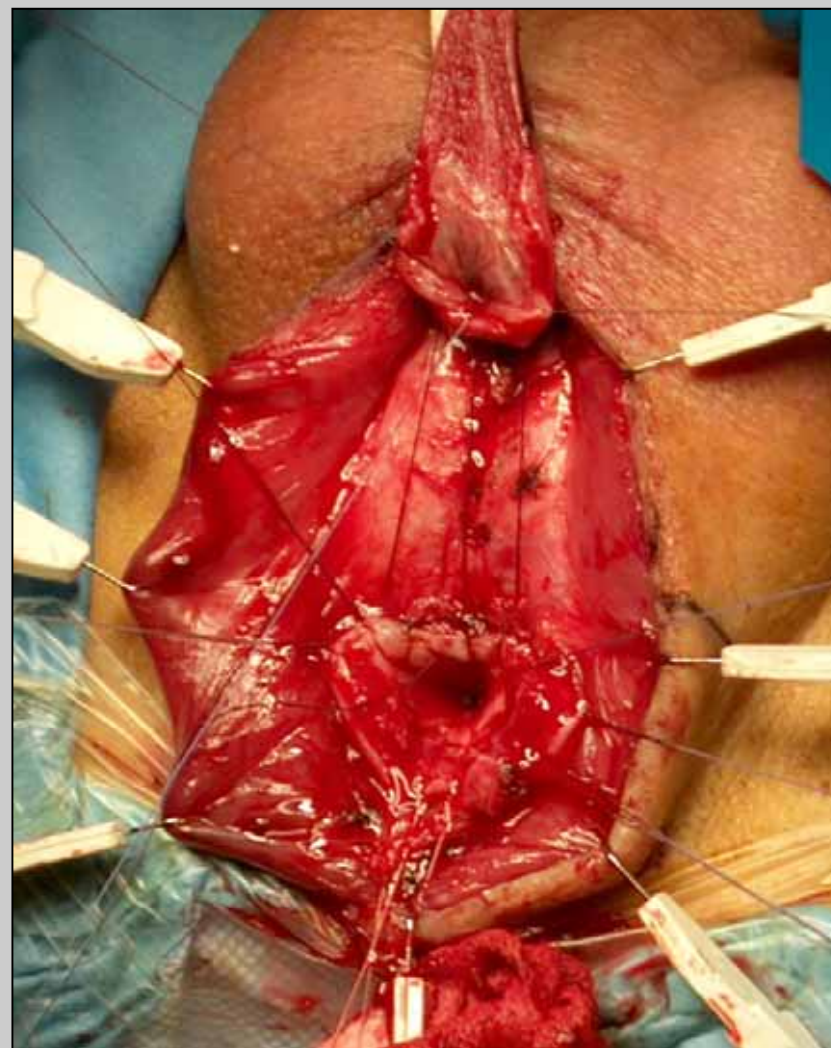
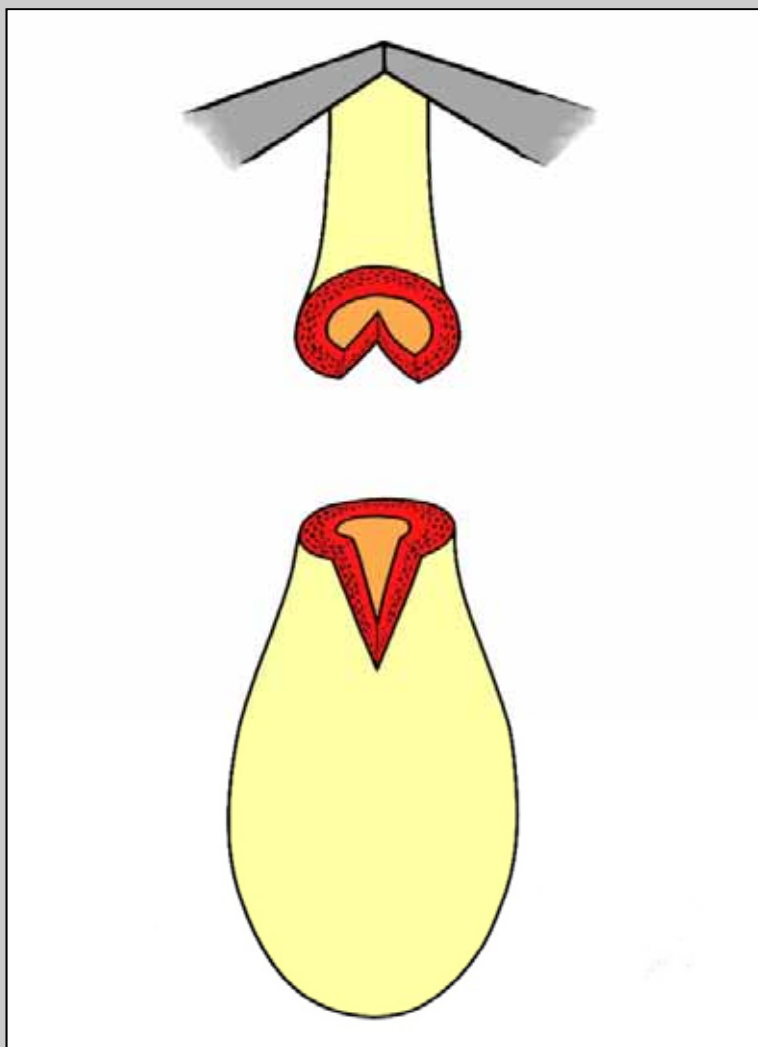


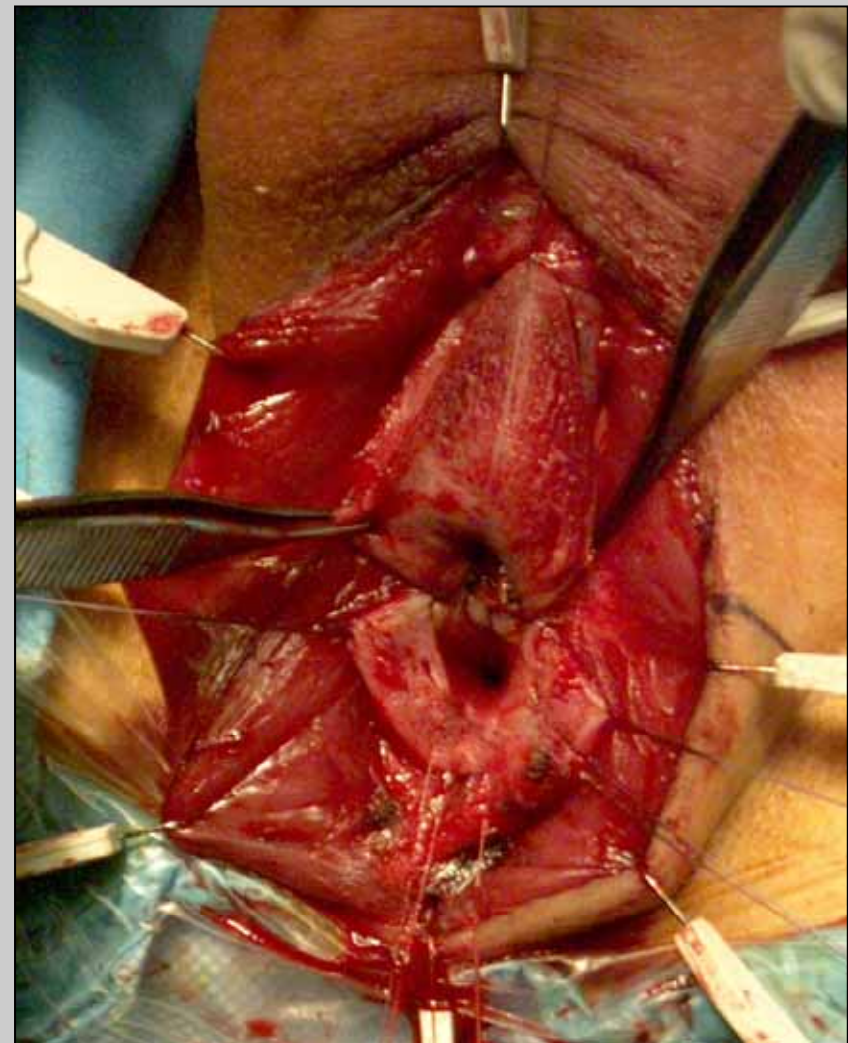
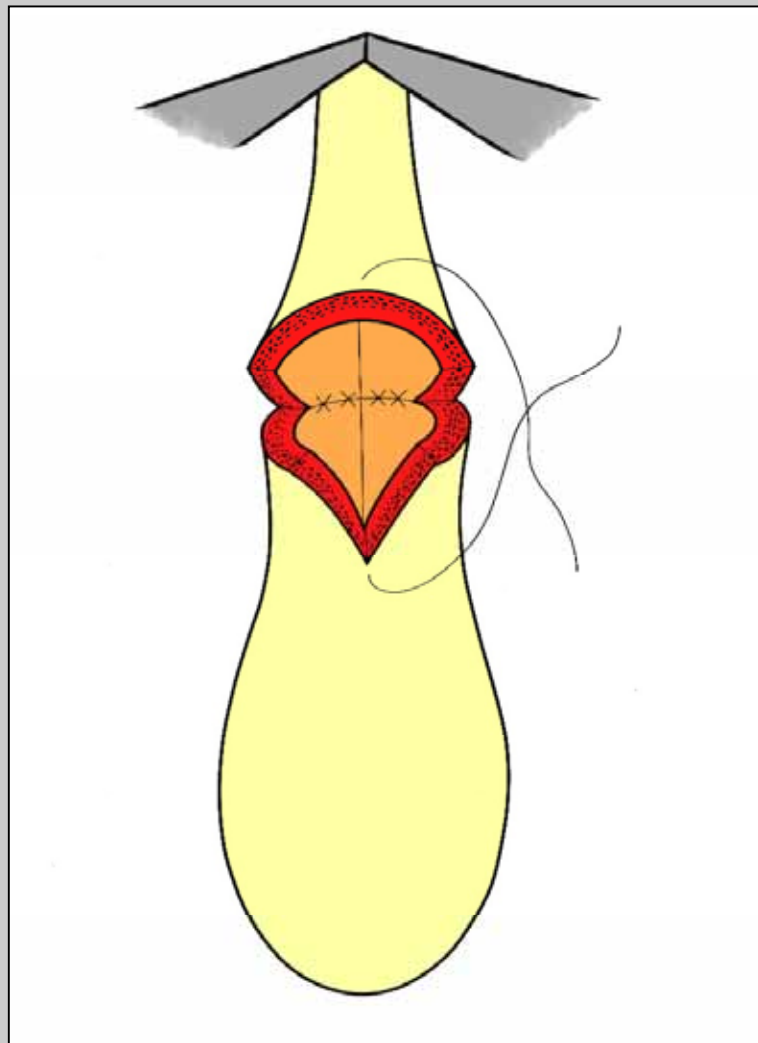
distal end

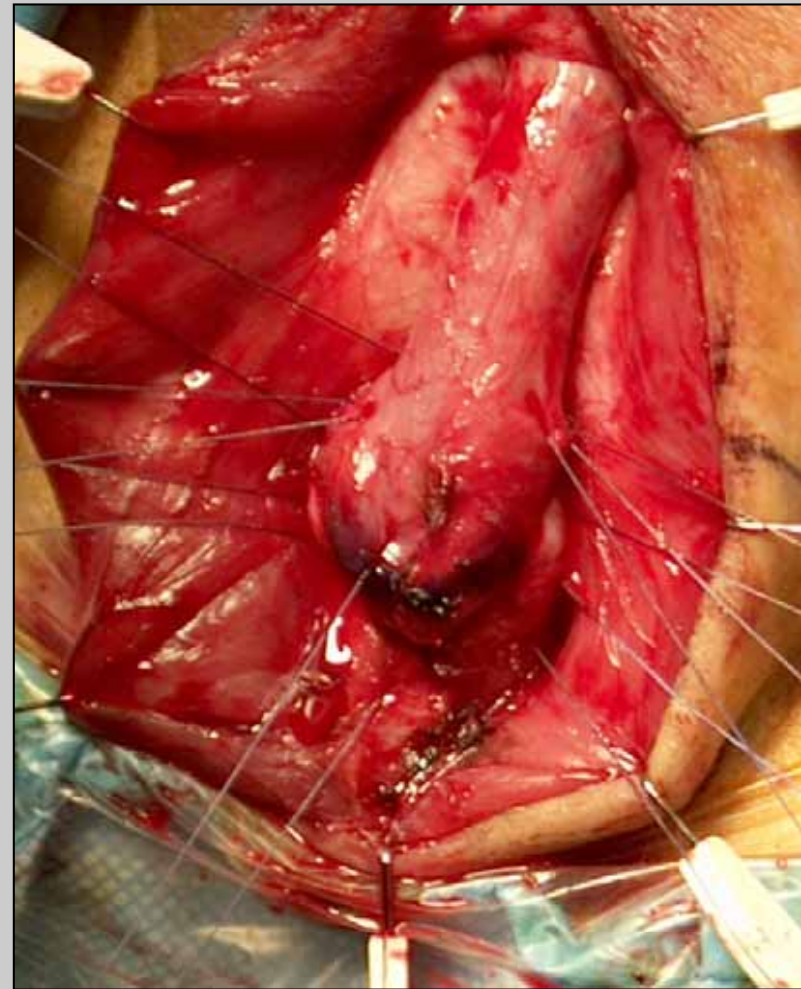
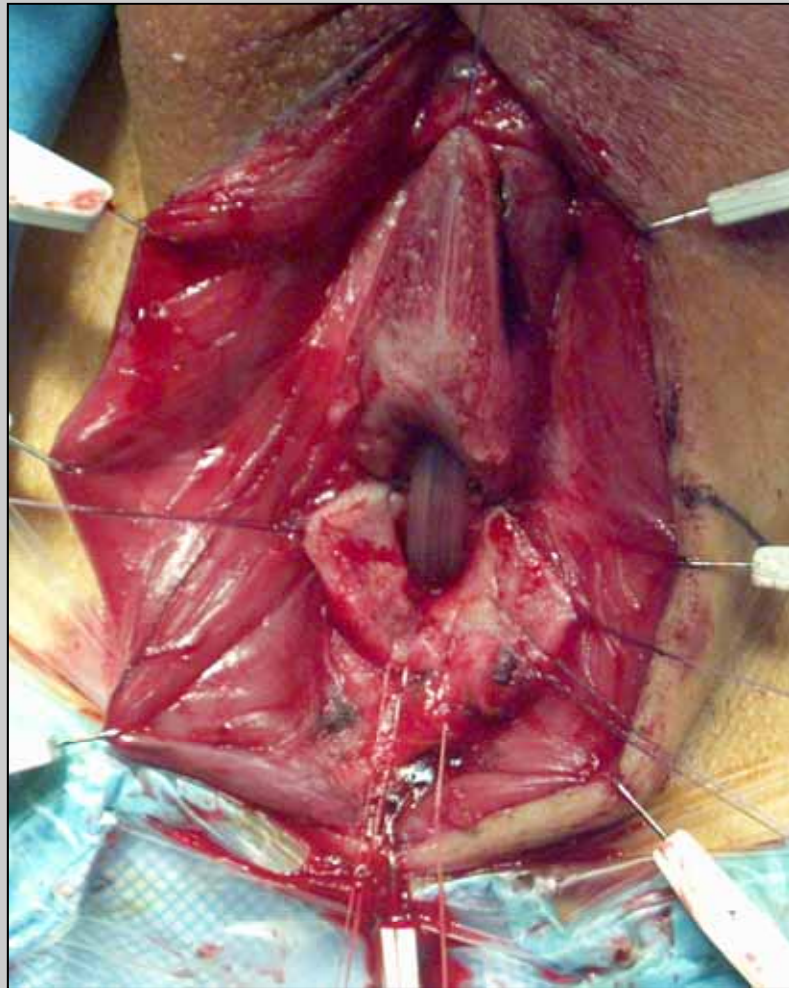


proximal end

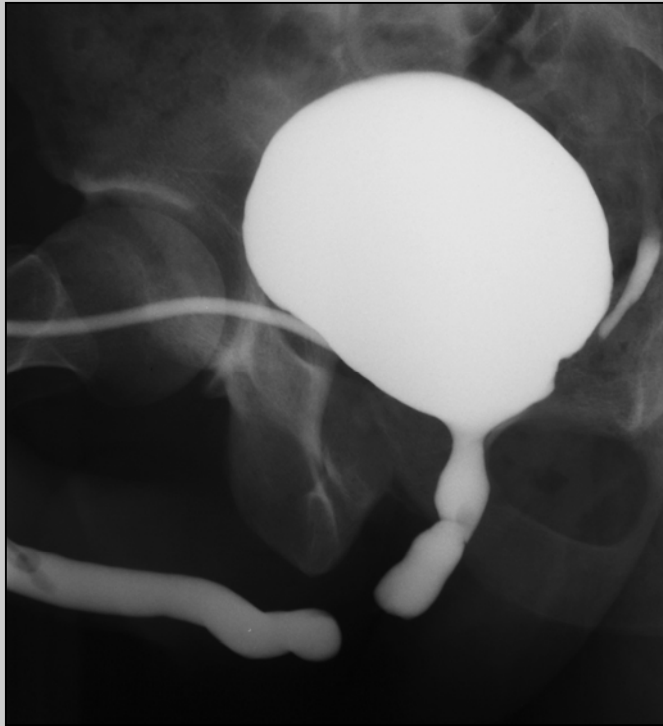




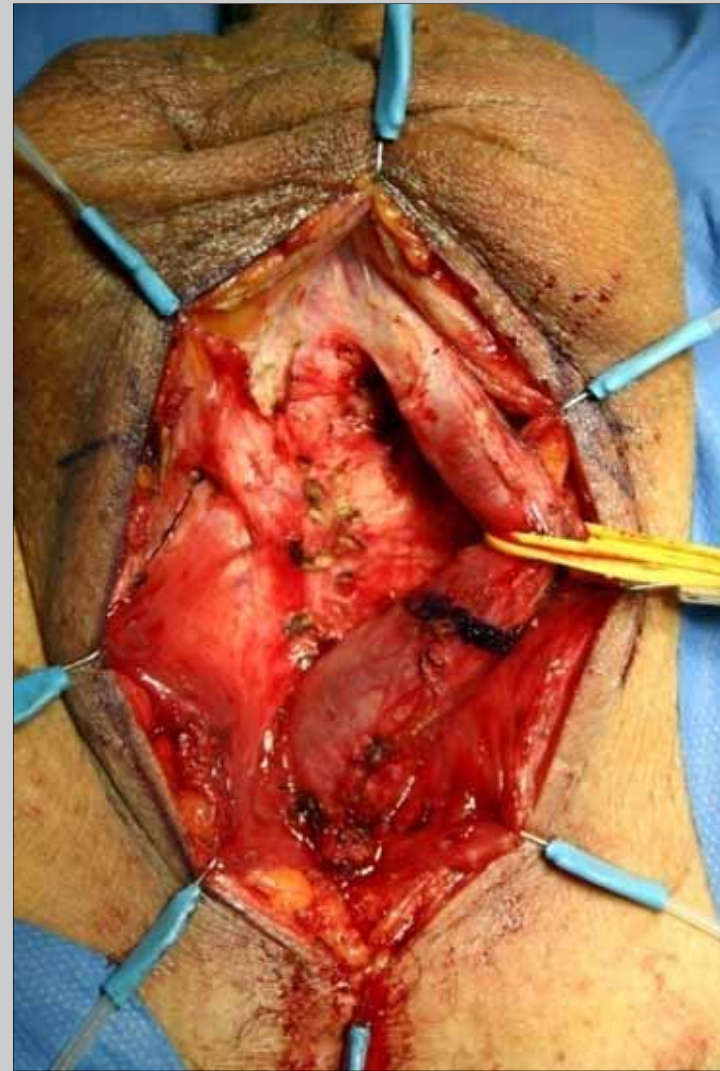
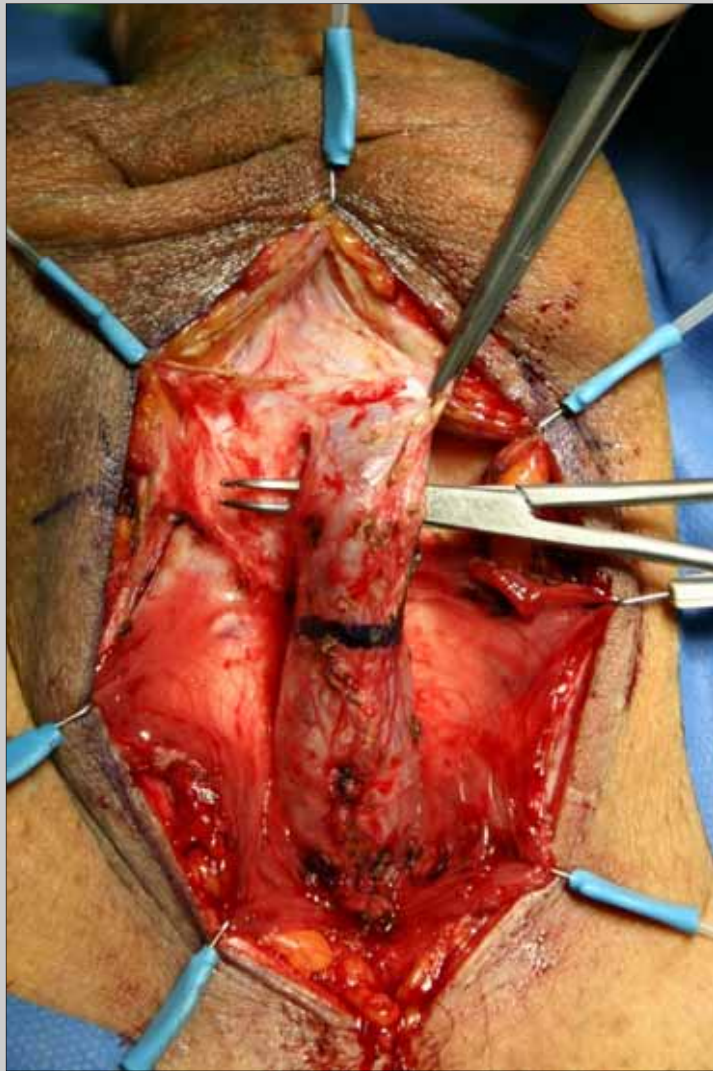


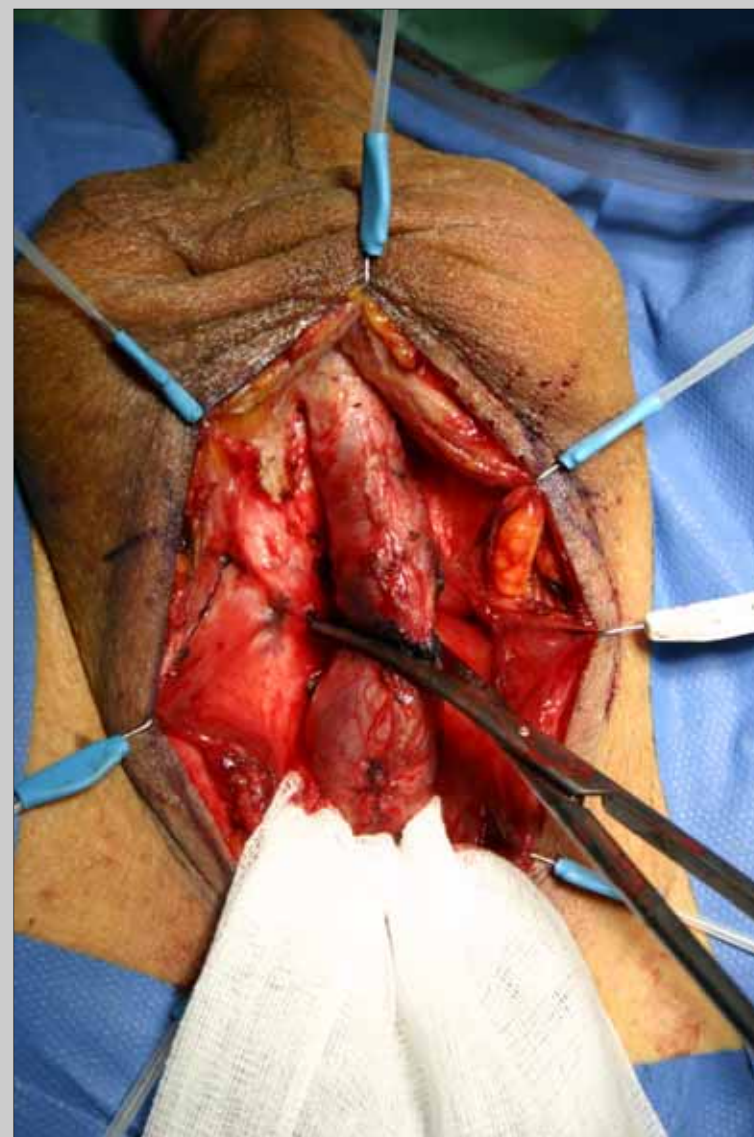
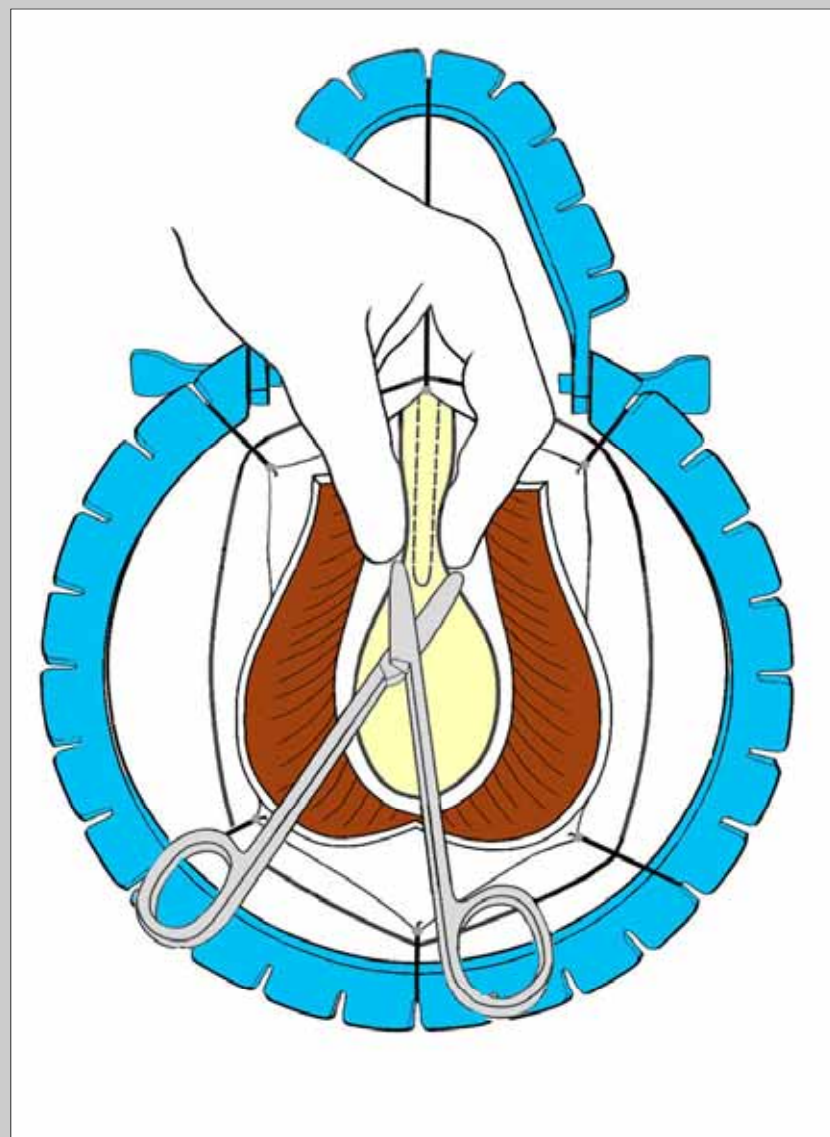


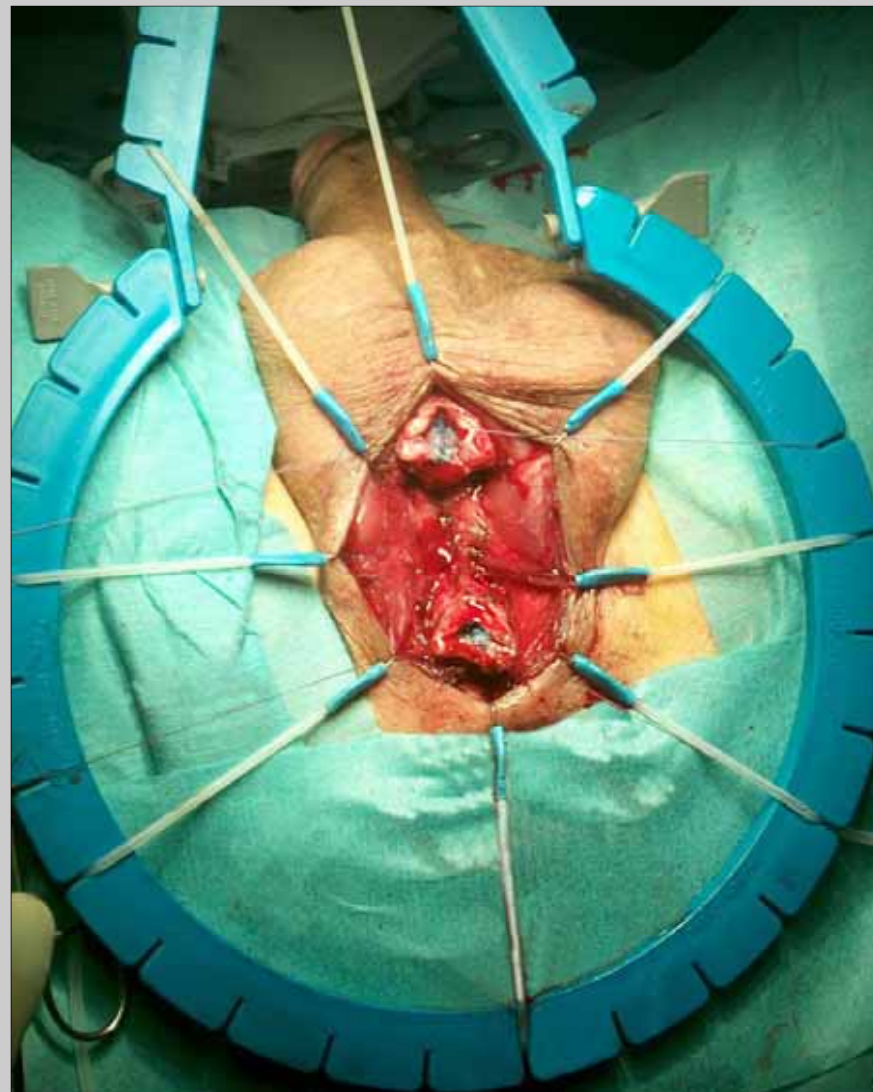
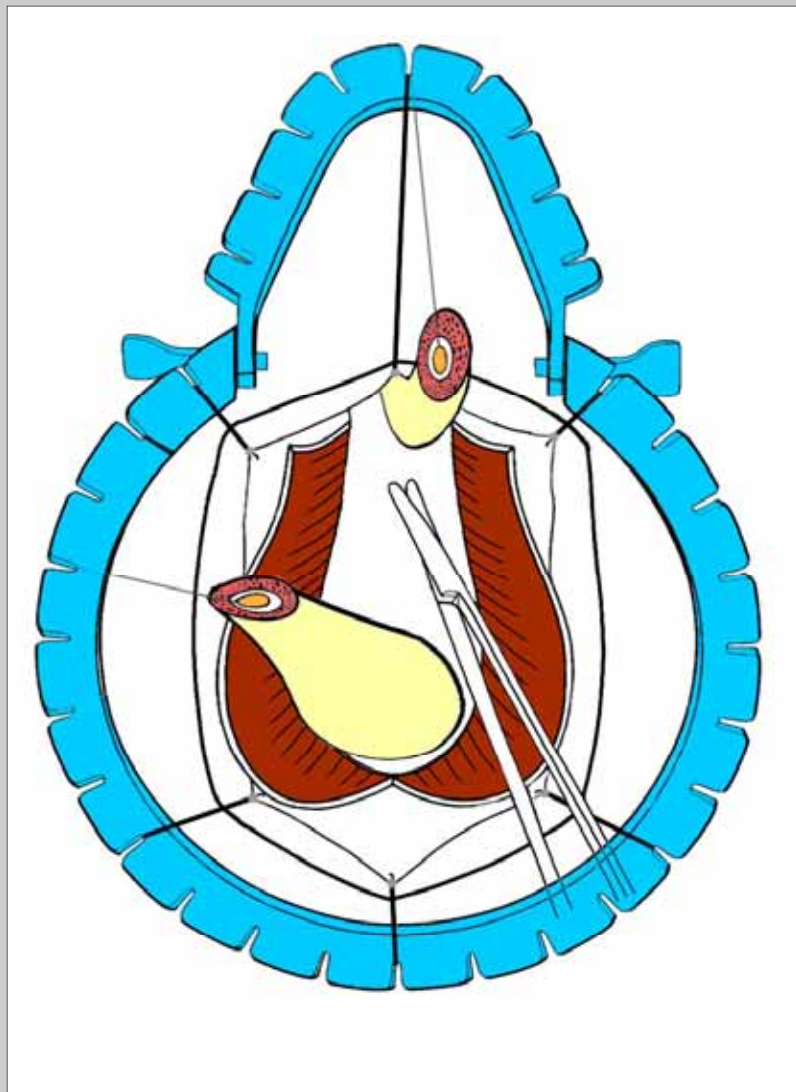
2 - 4 cm traumatic bulbar urethral stricture

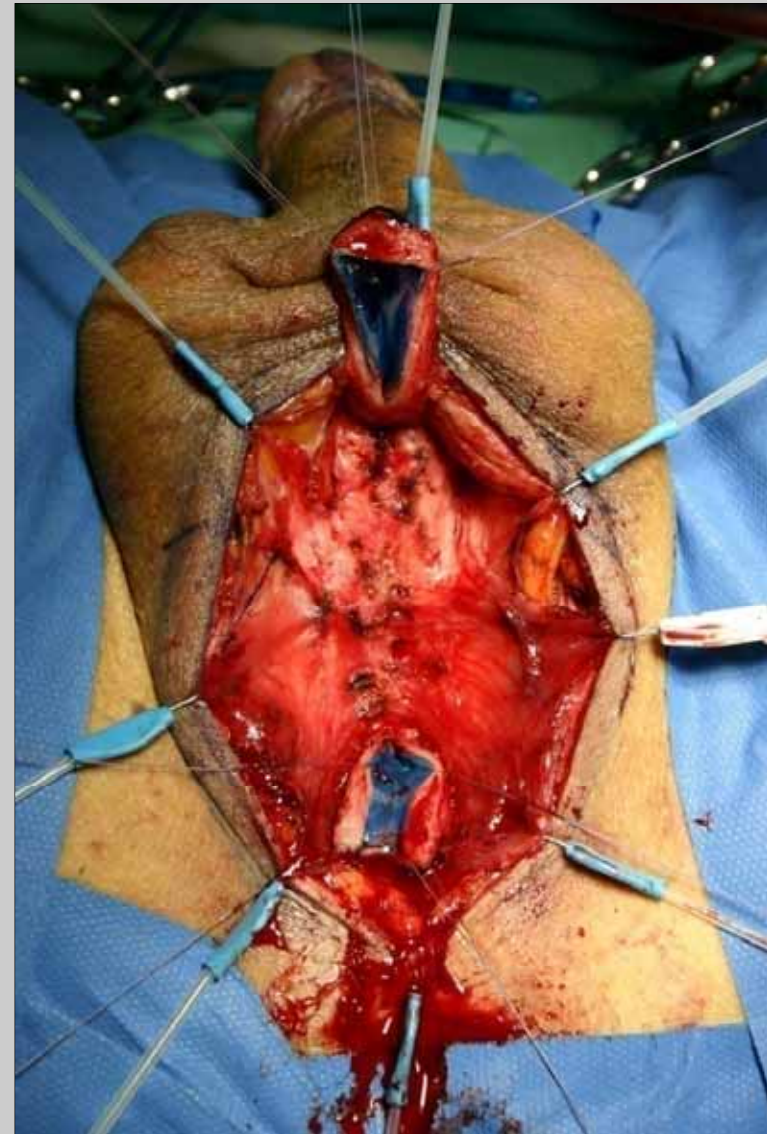
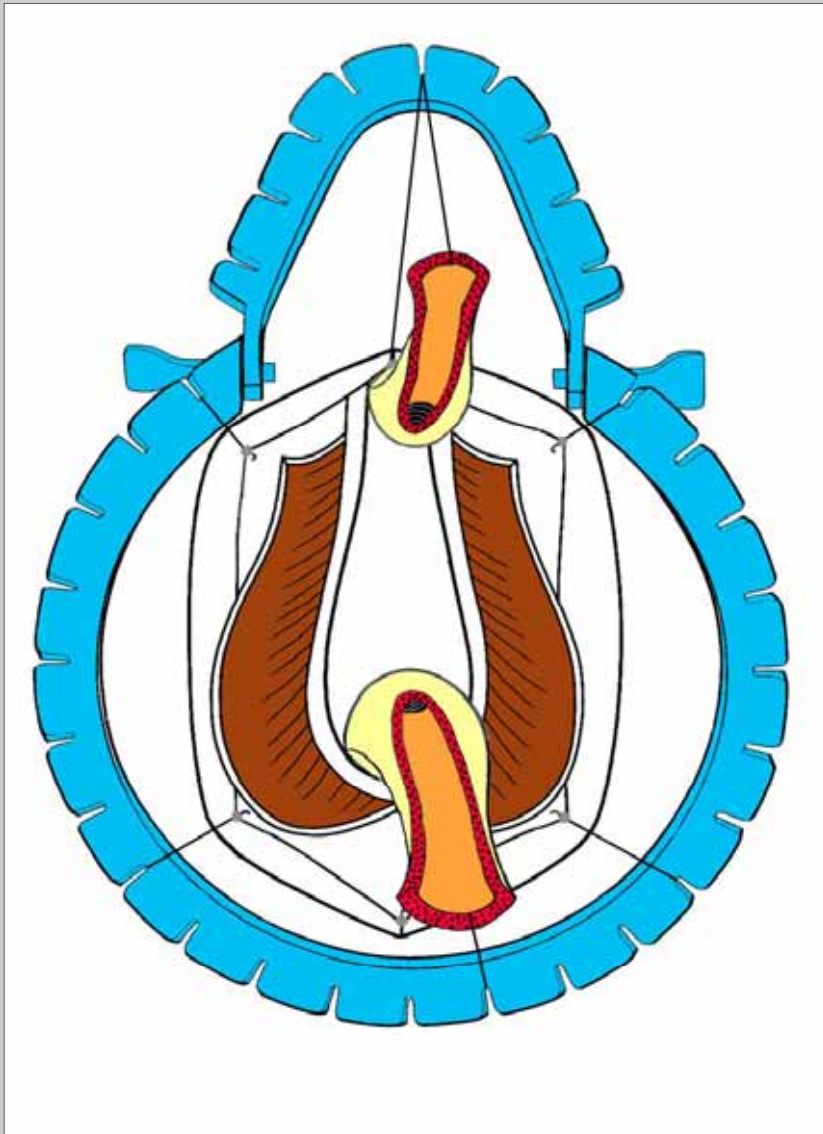


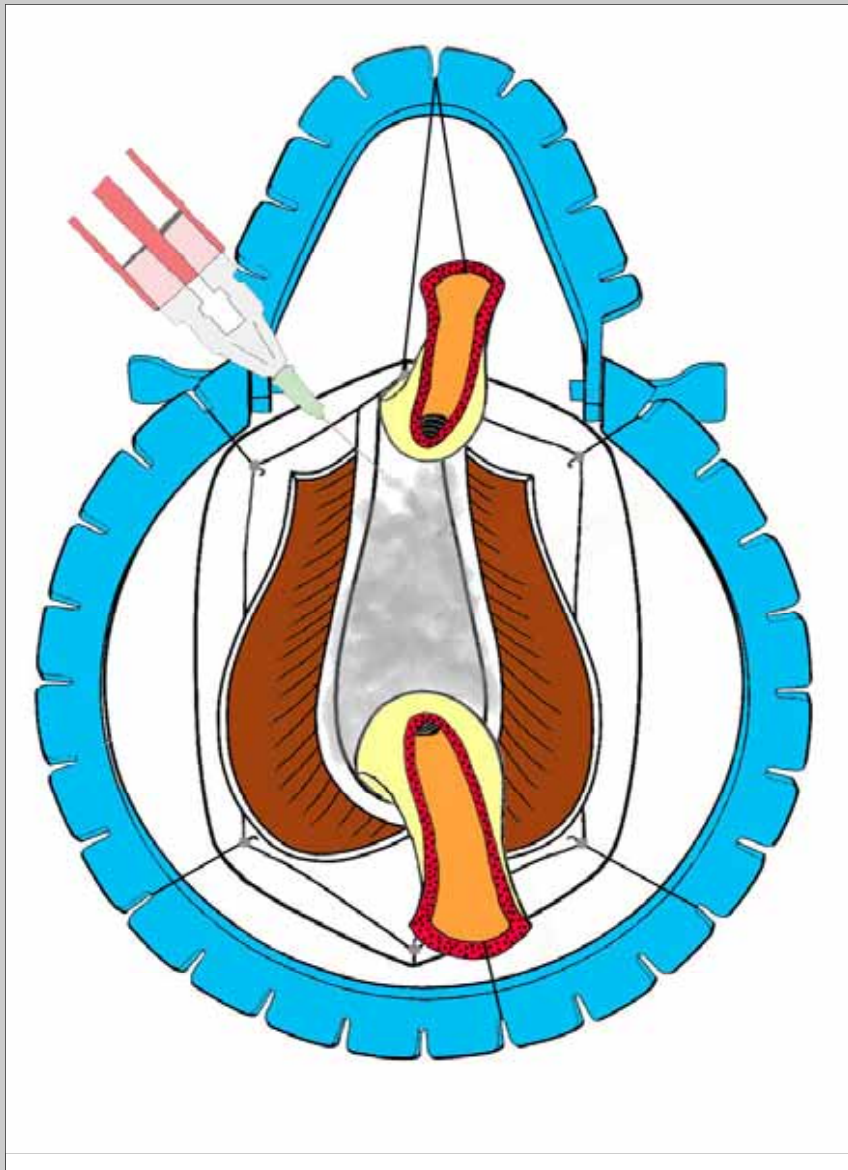
Augmented anastomotic repair

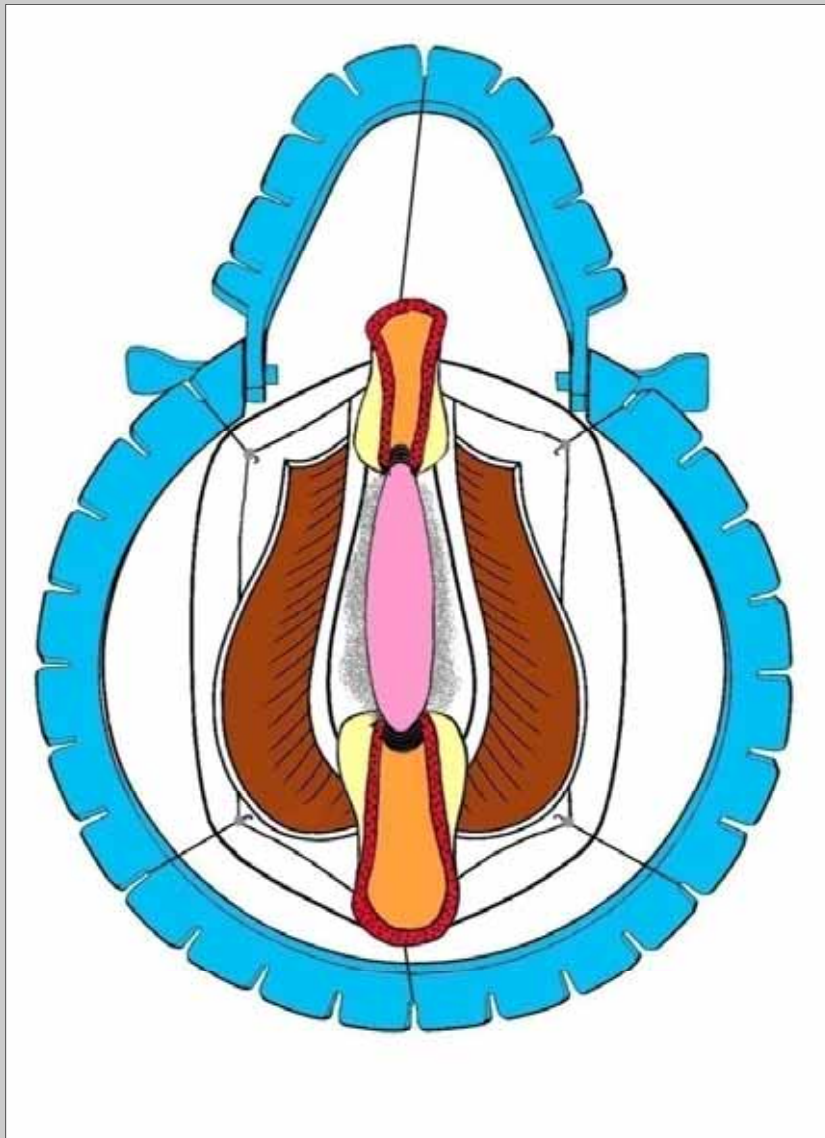


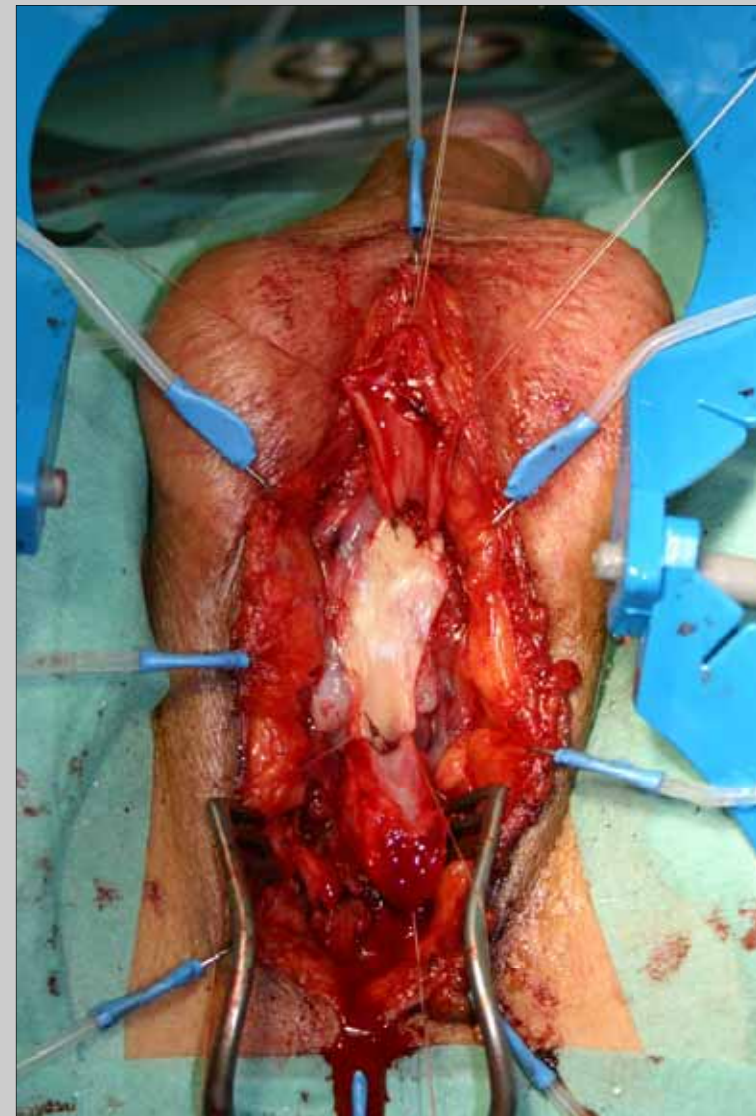
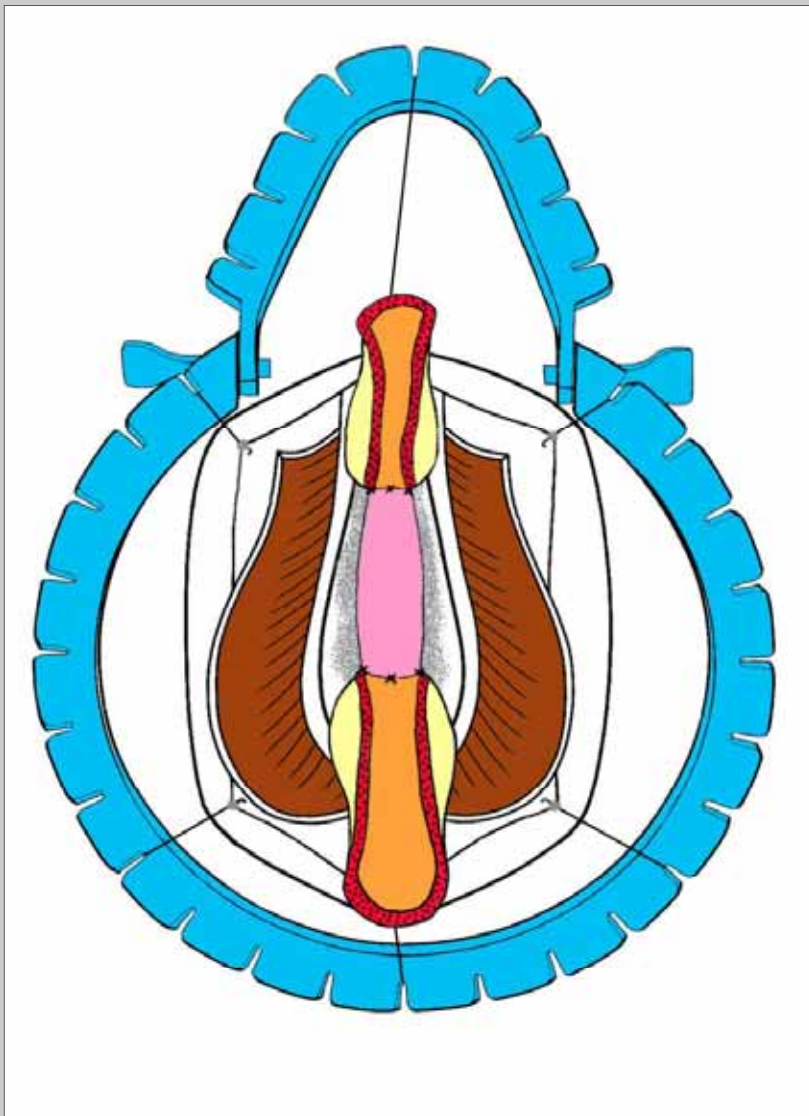


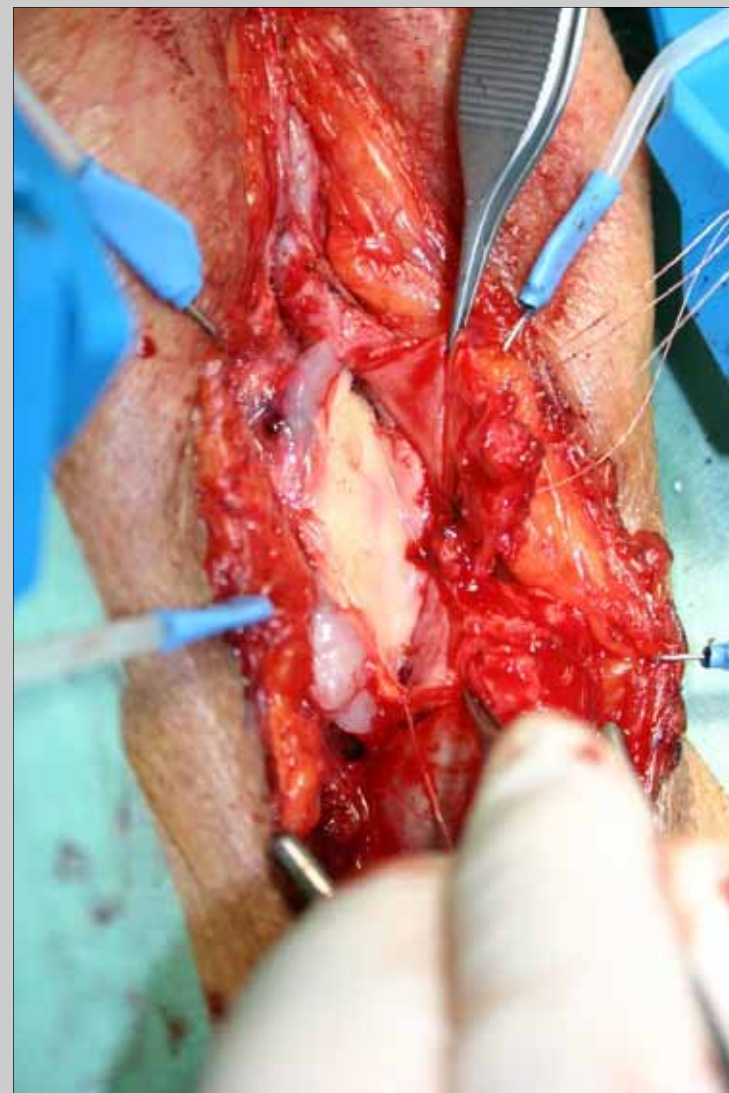
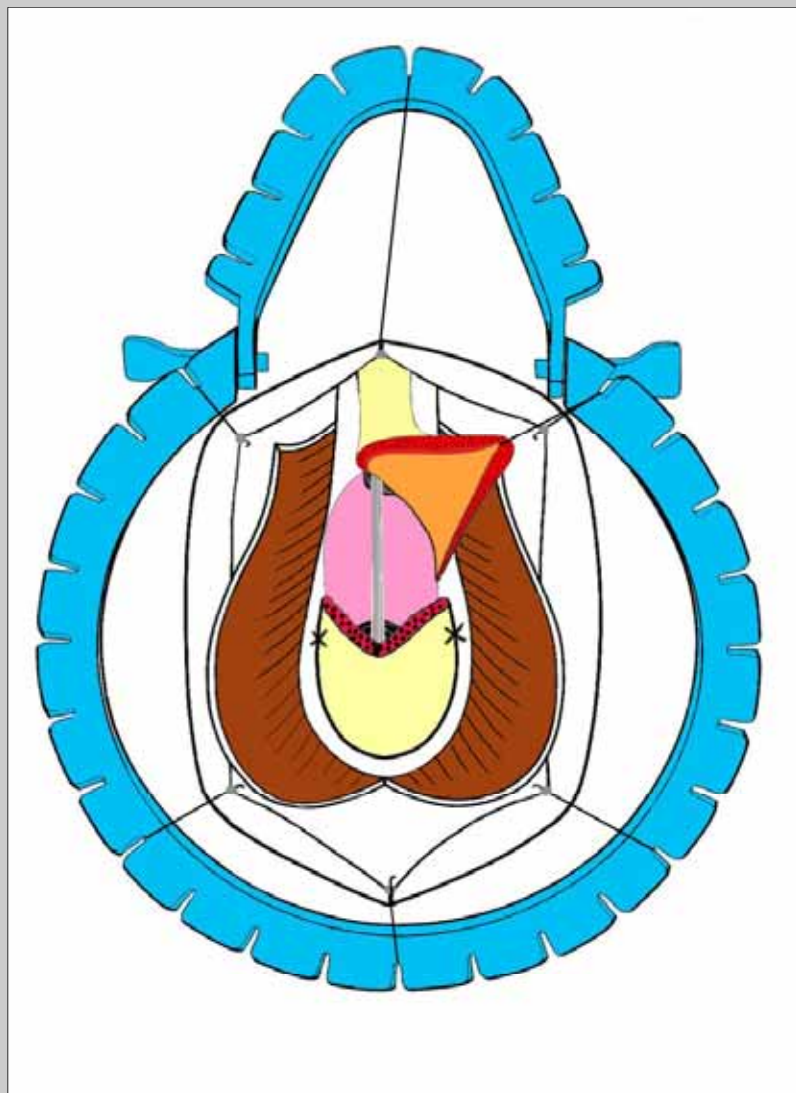


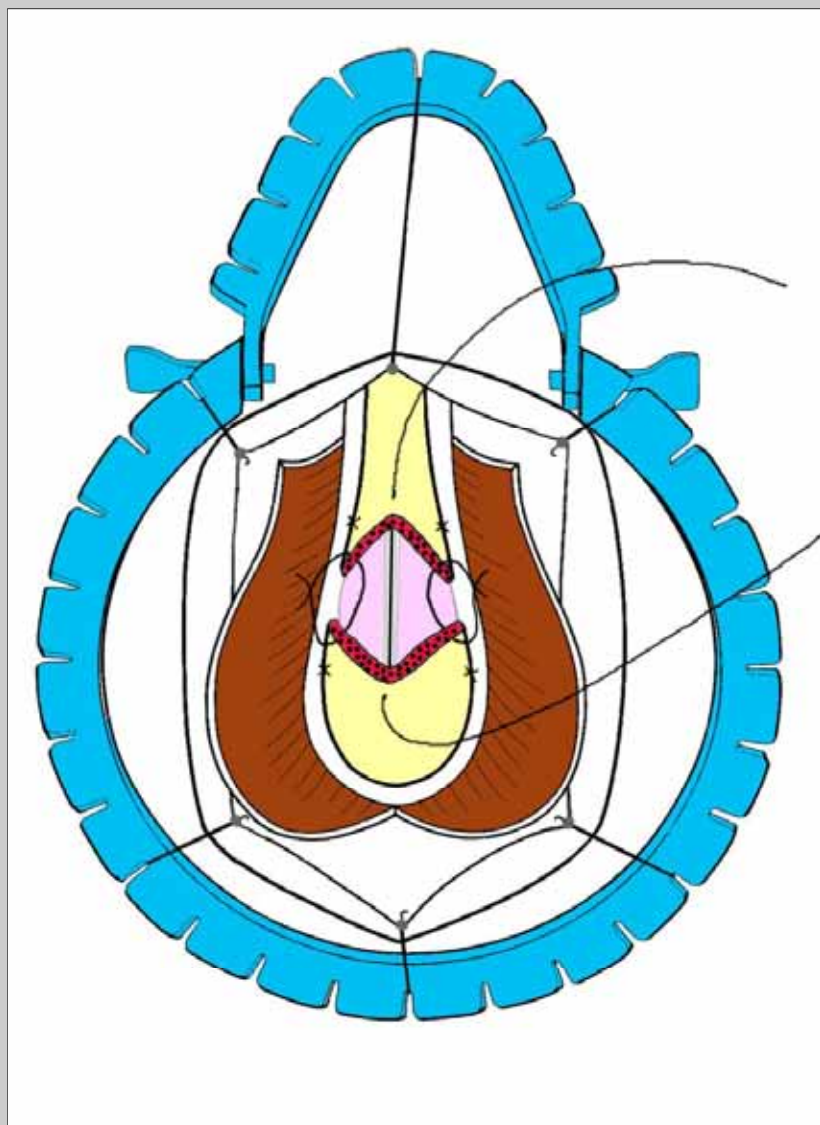


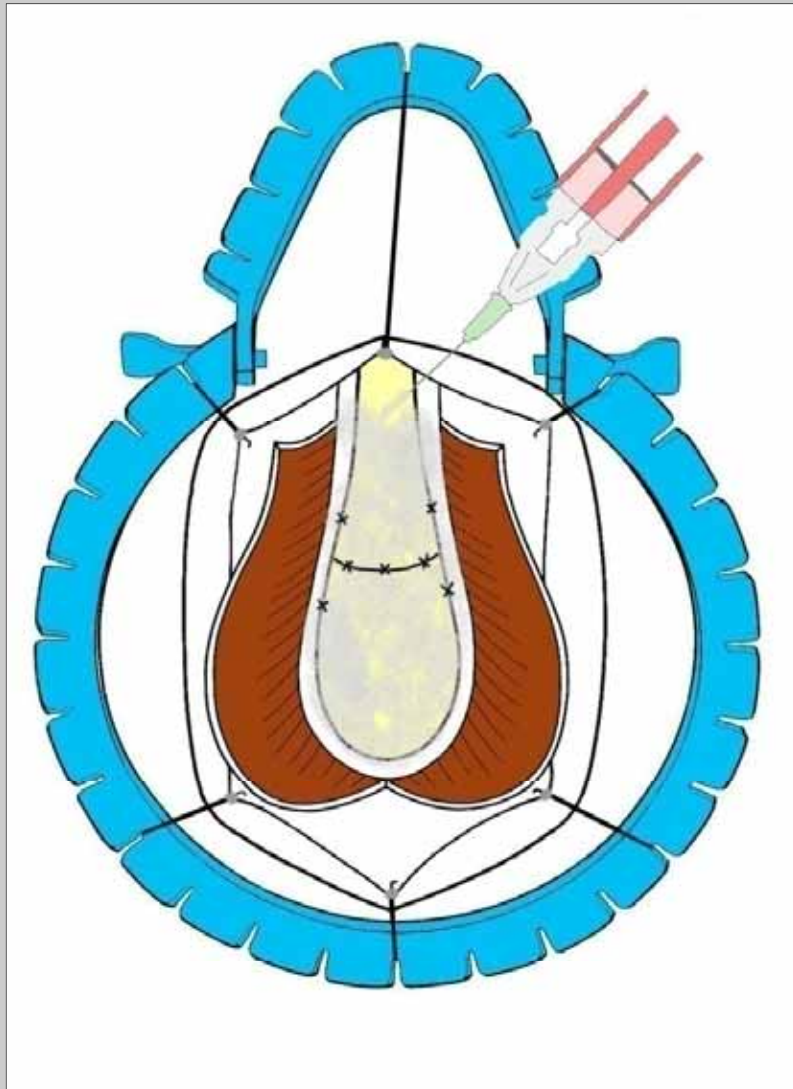




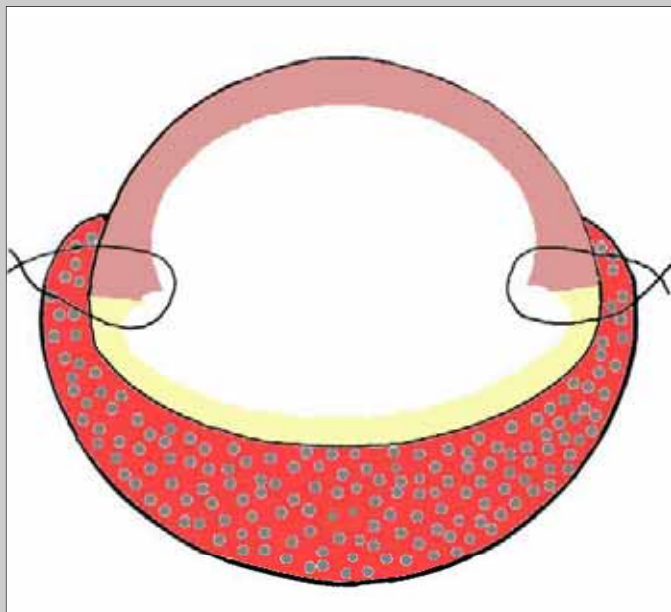




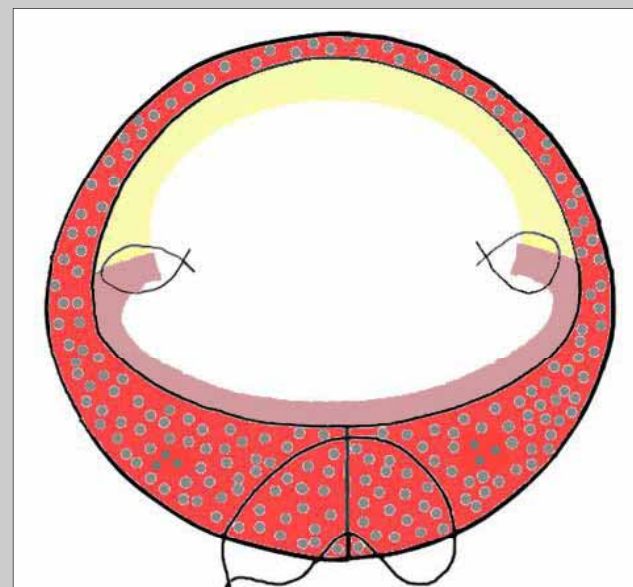




Oral mucosal graft onlay urethroplasty

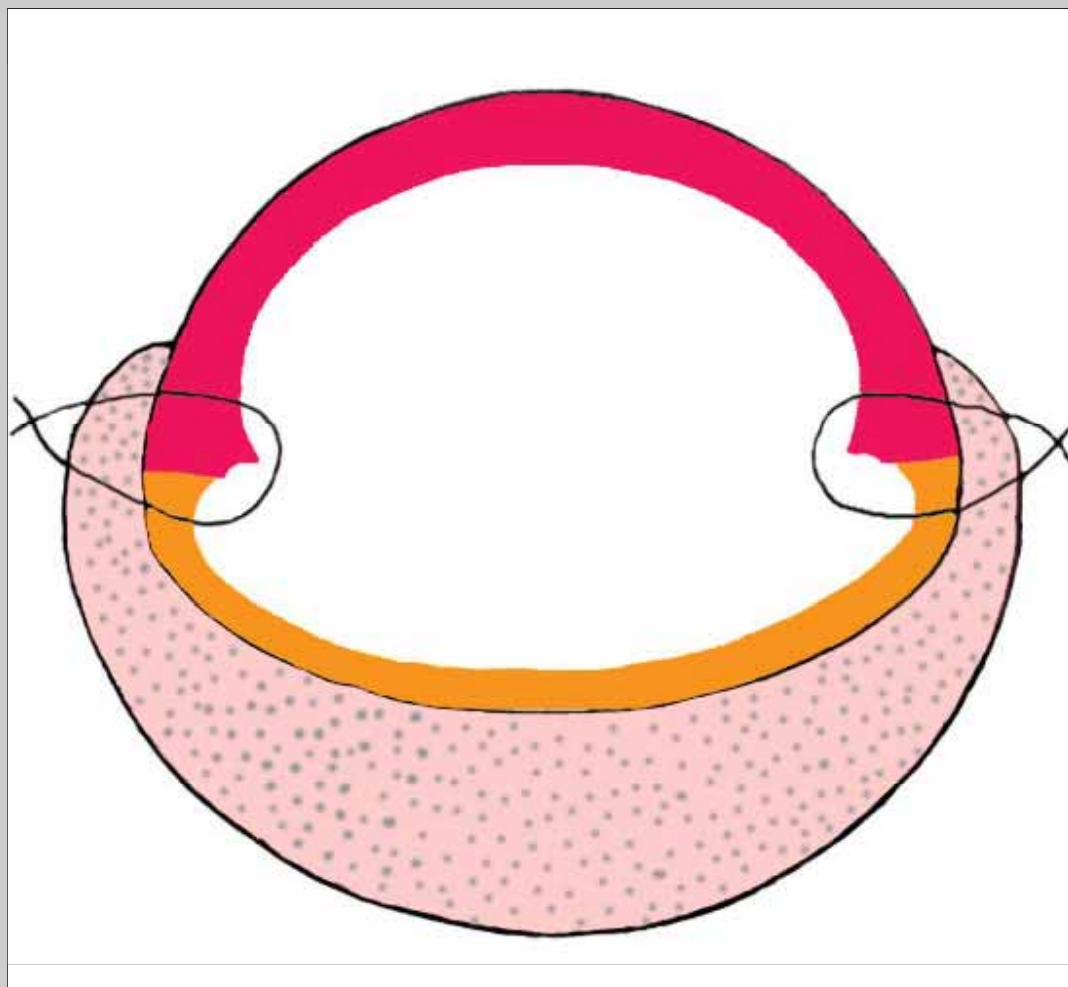


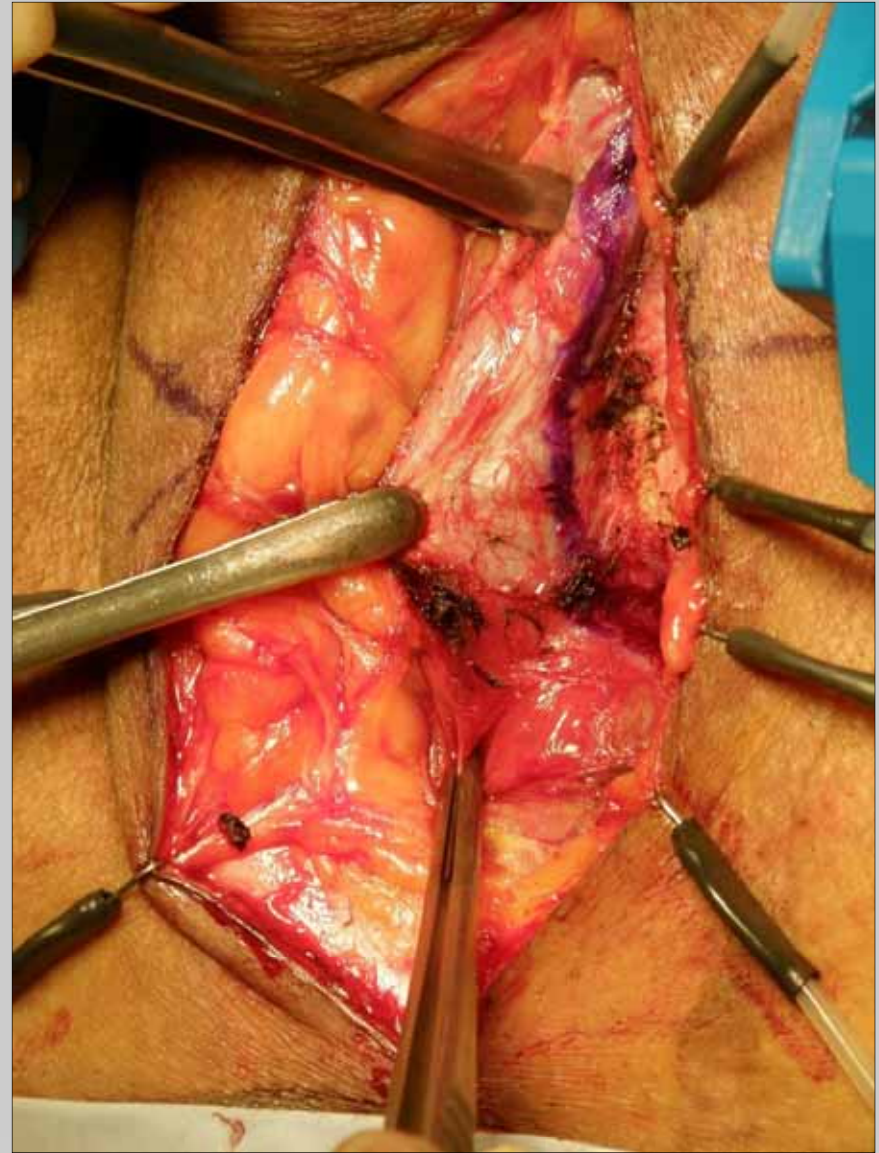
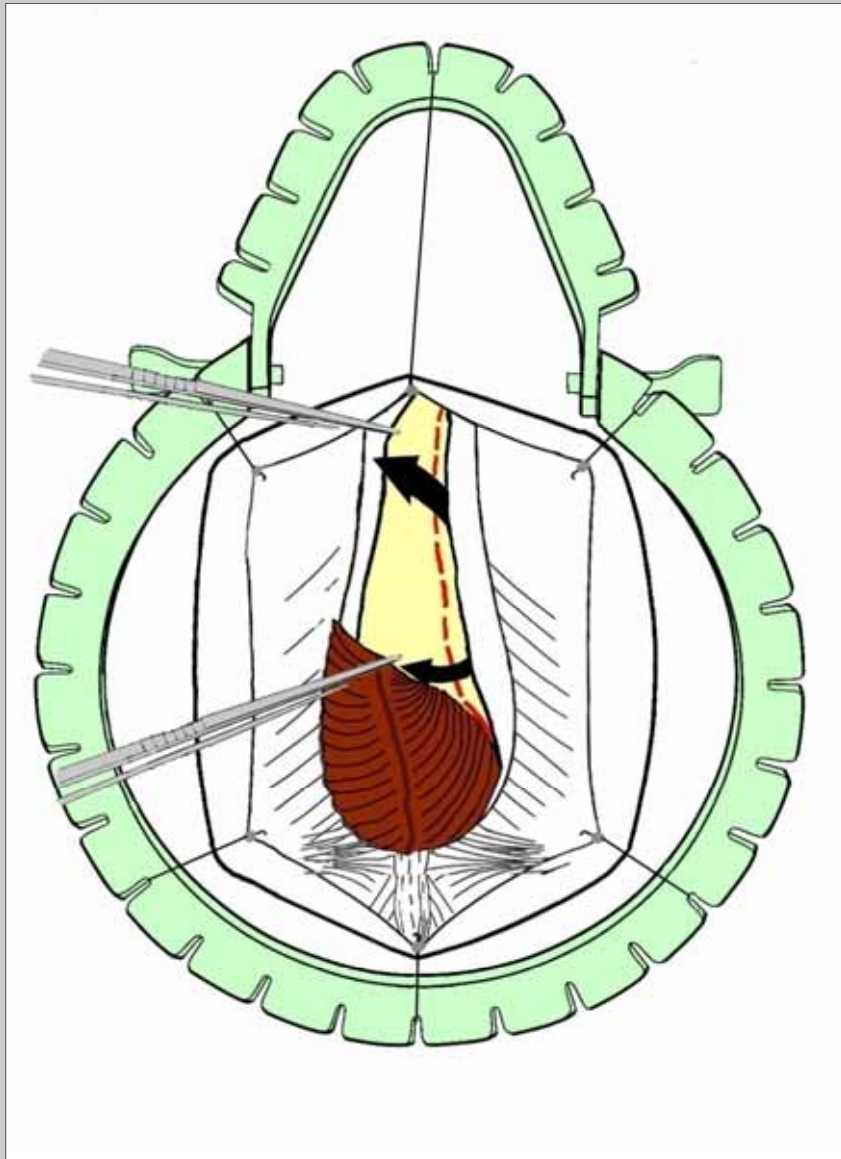
dorsal

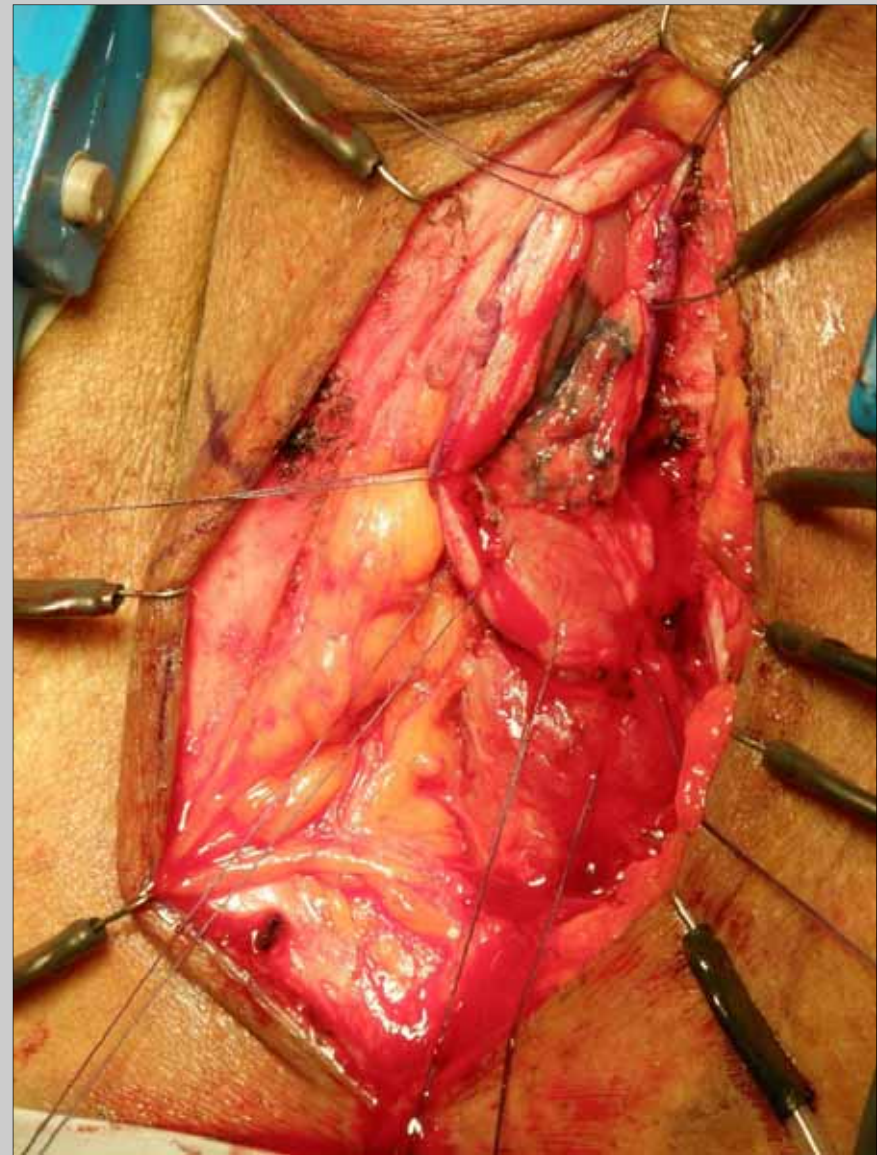
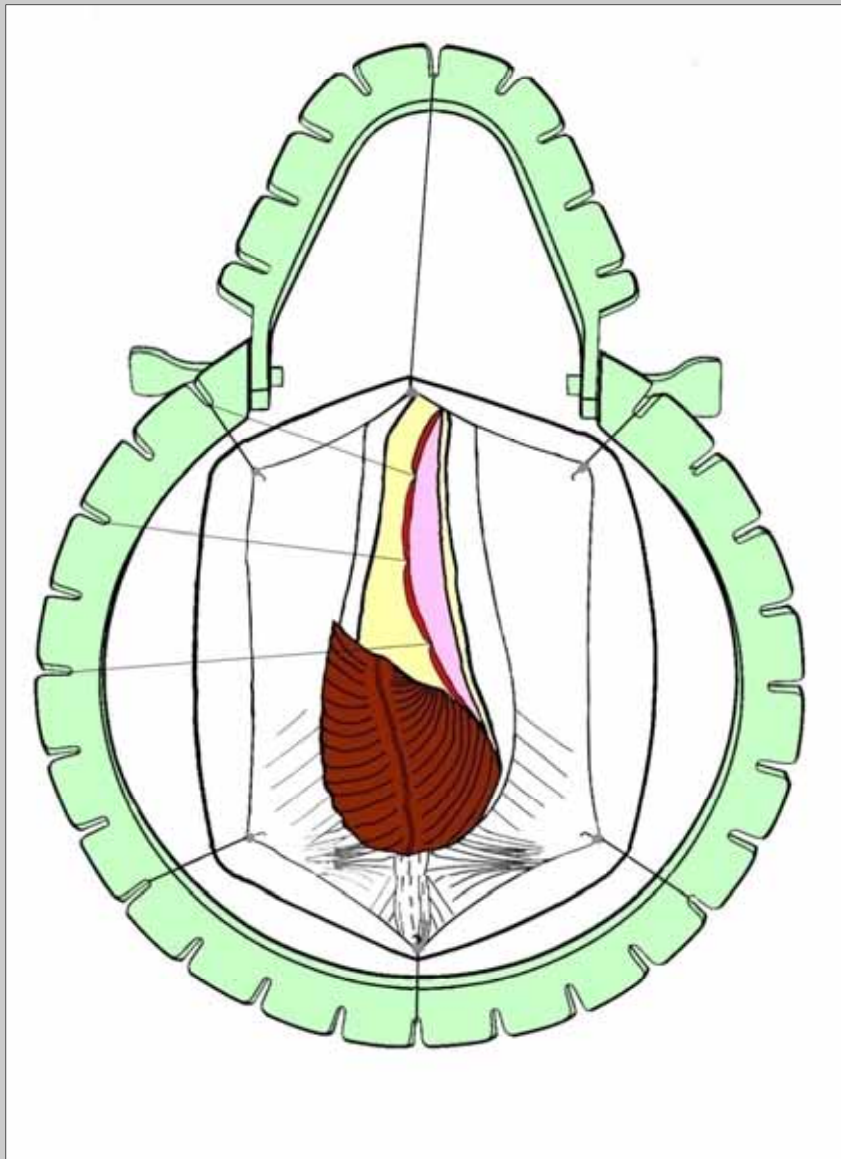


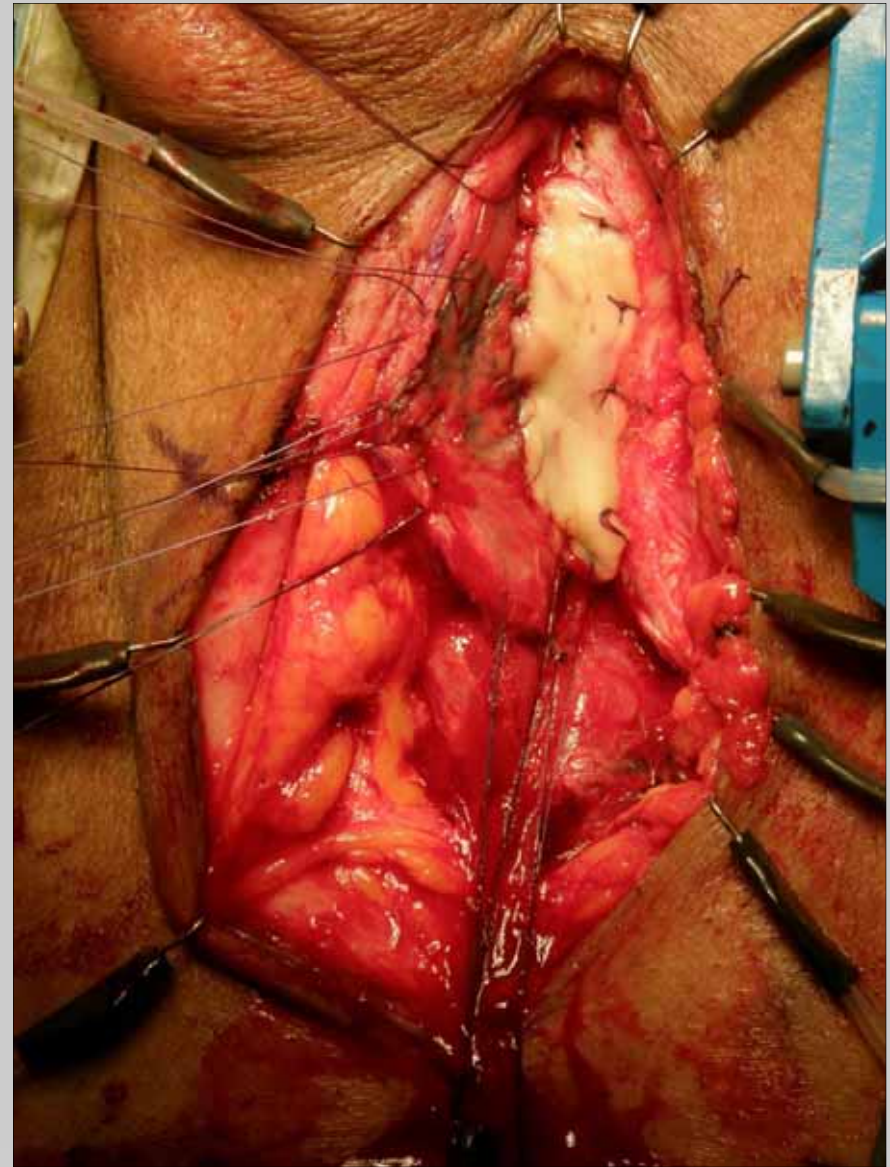
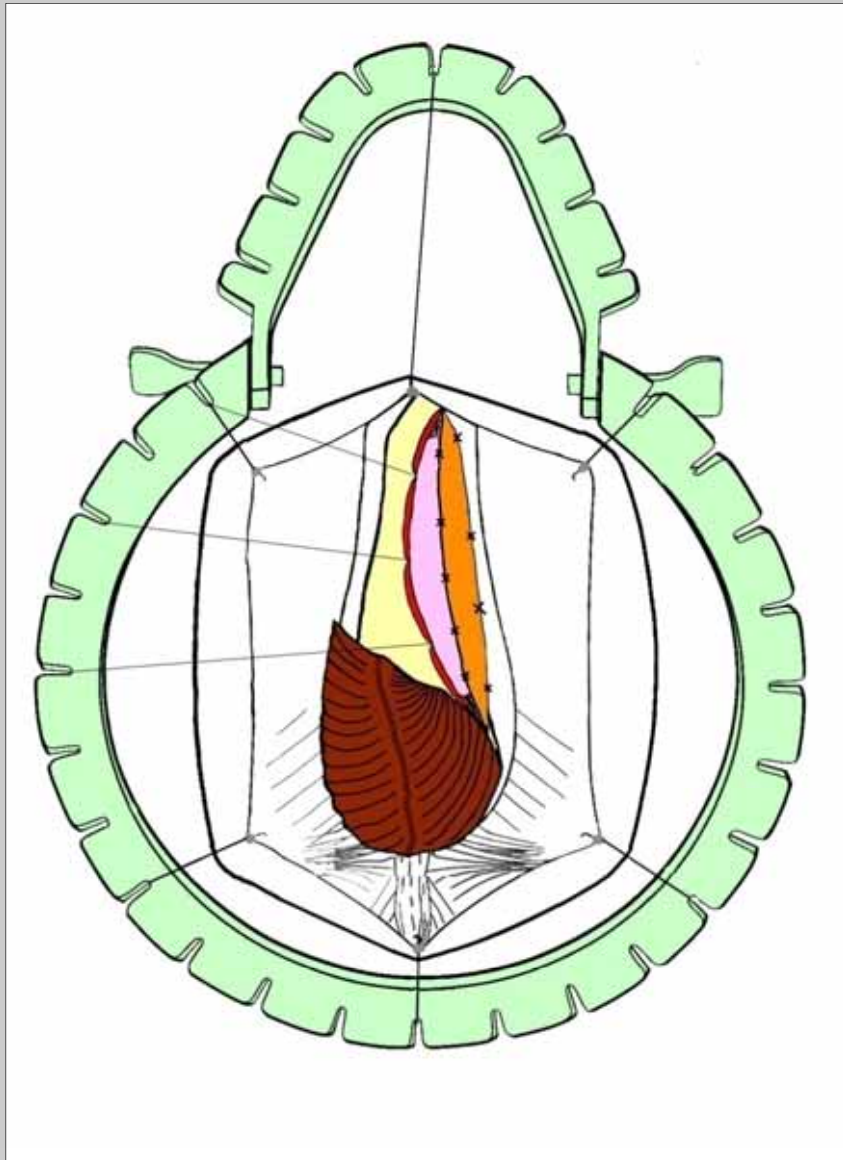
ventral

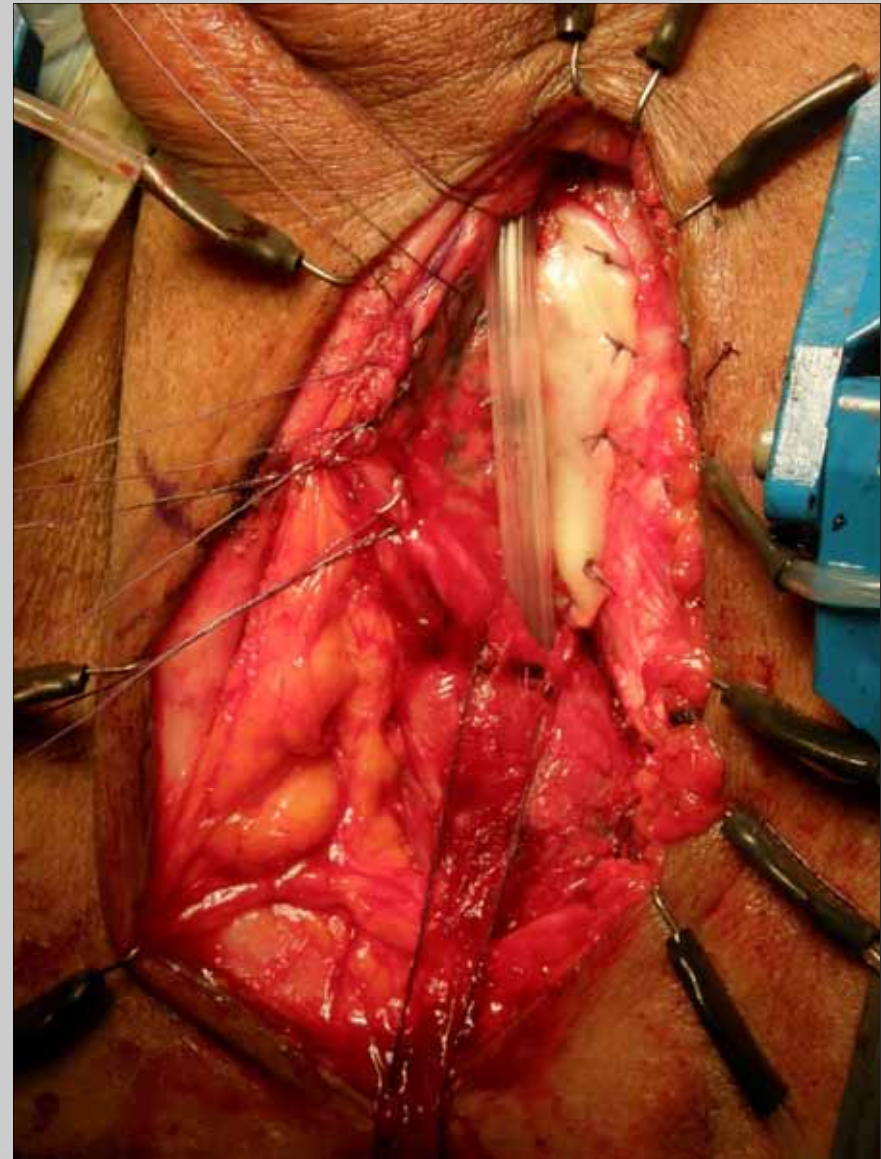
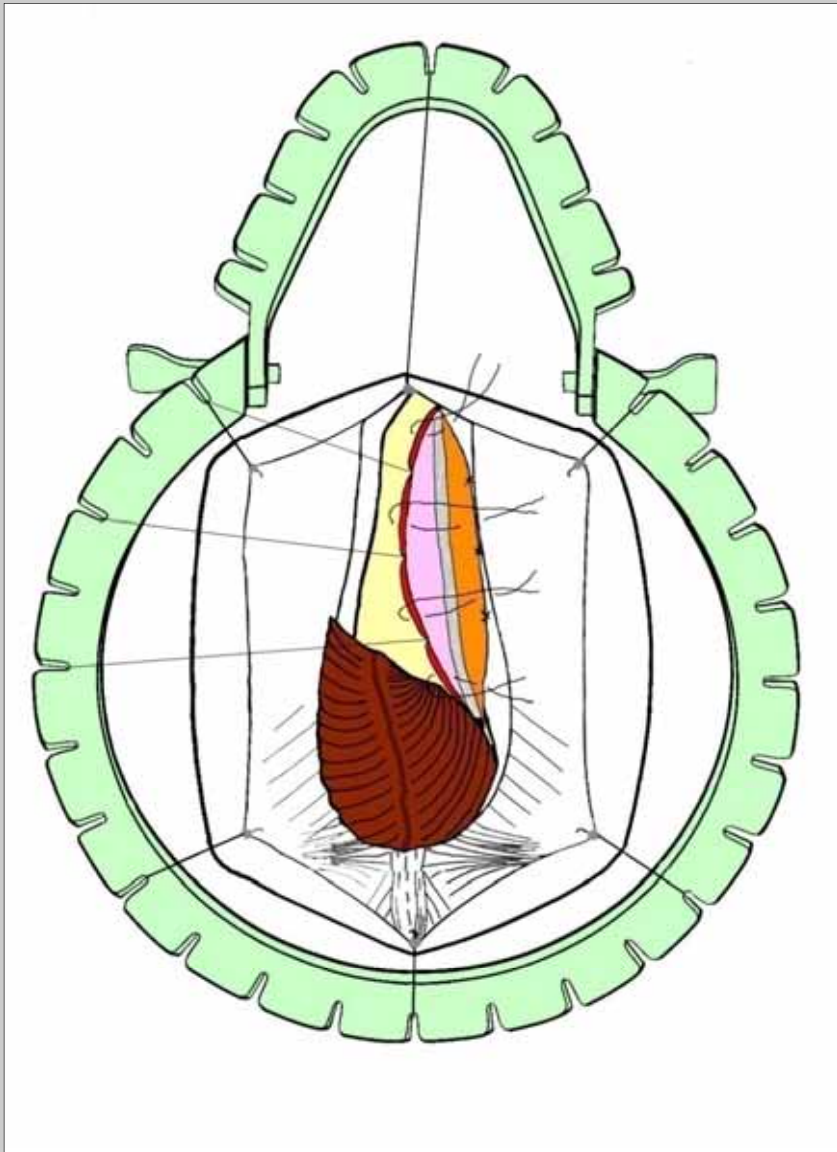
Muscle and nerve sparing **dorsal** onlay graft urethroplasty

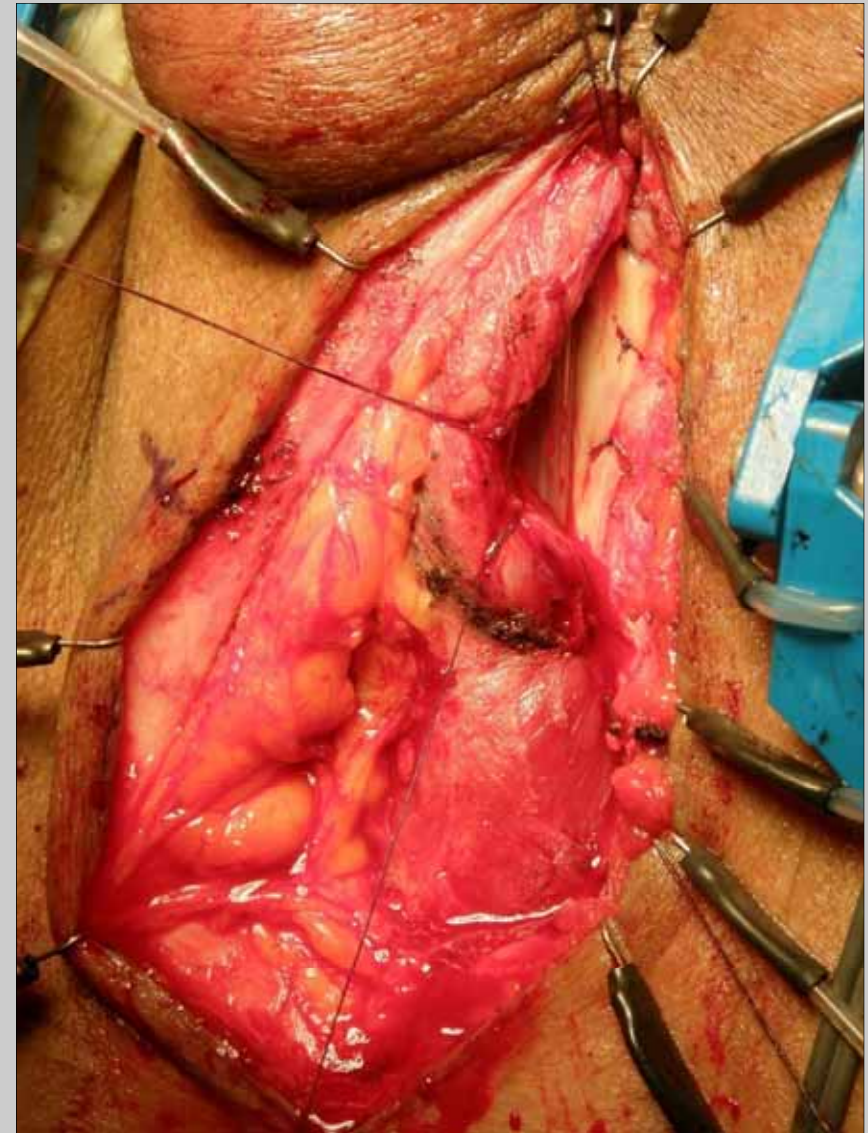
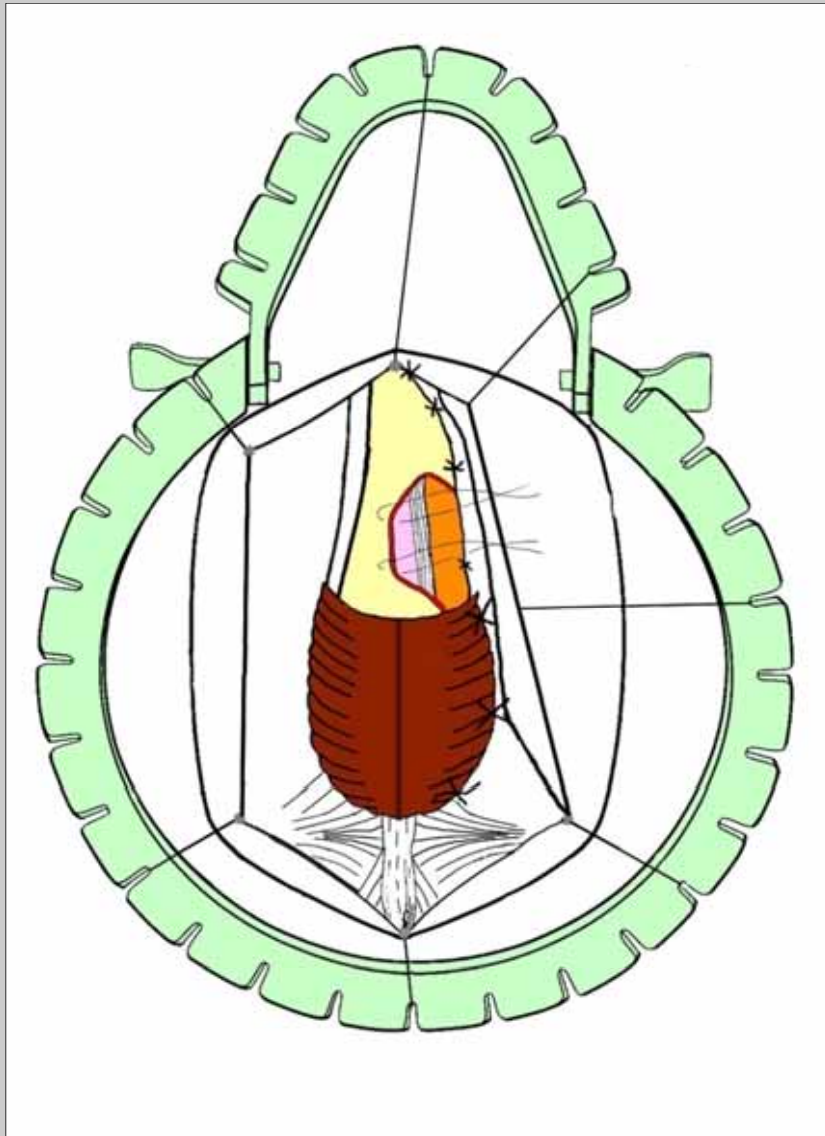


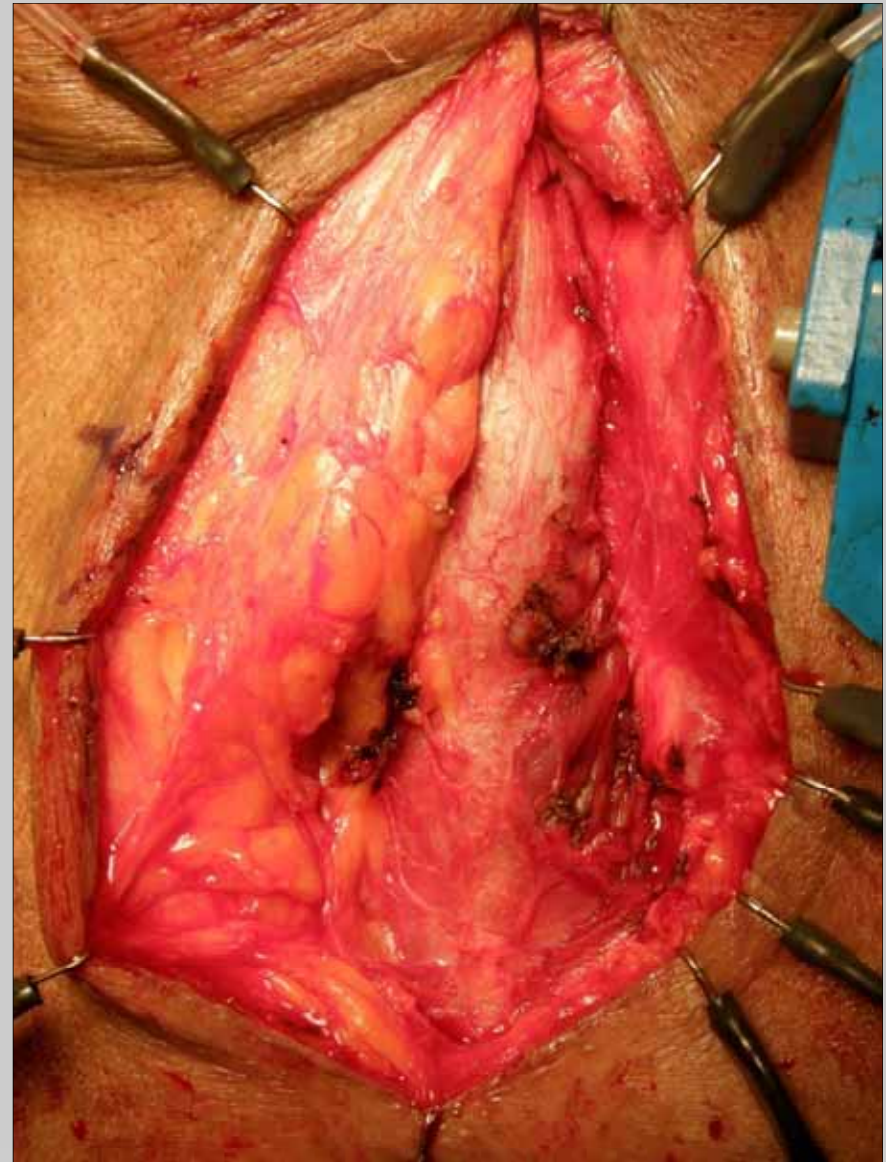
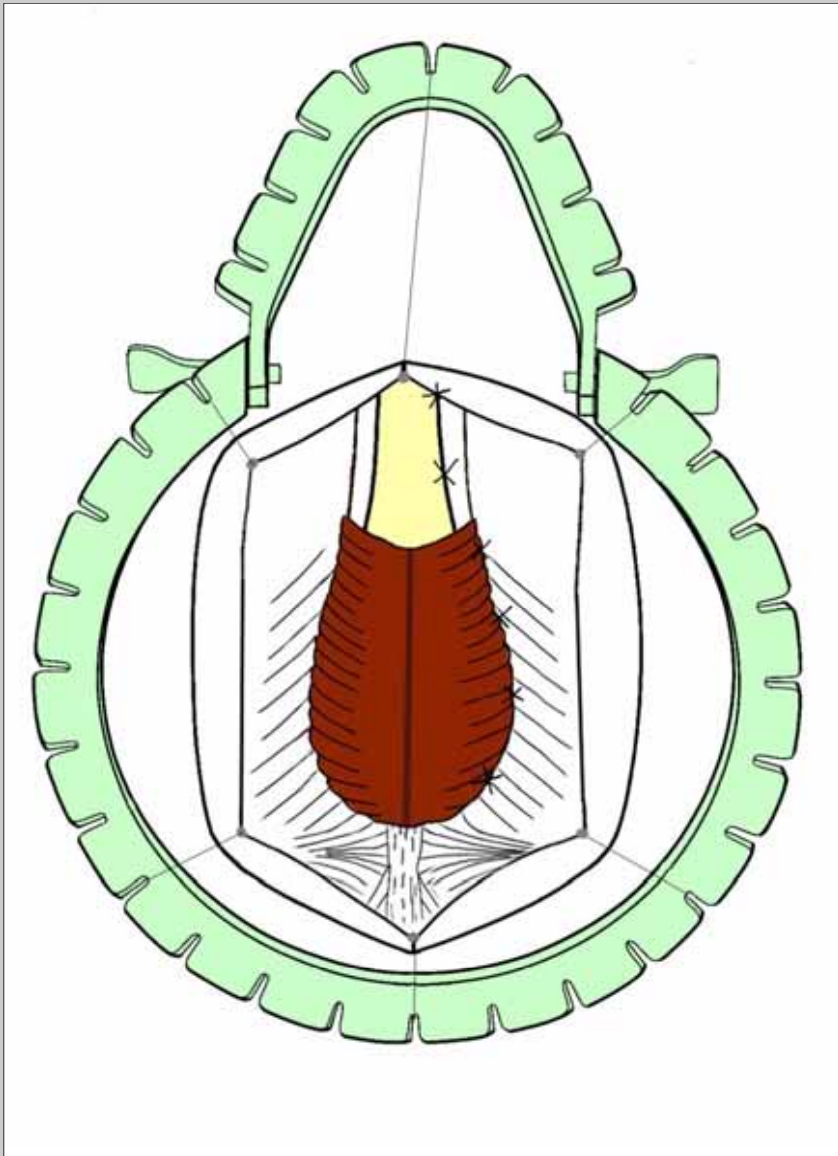




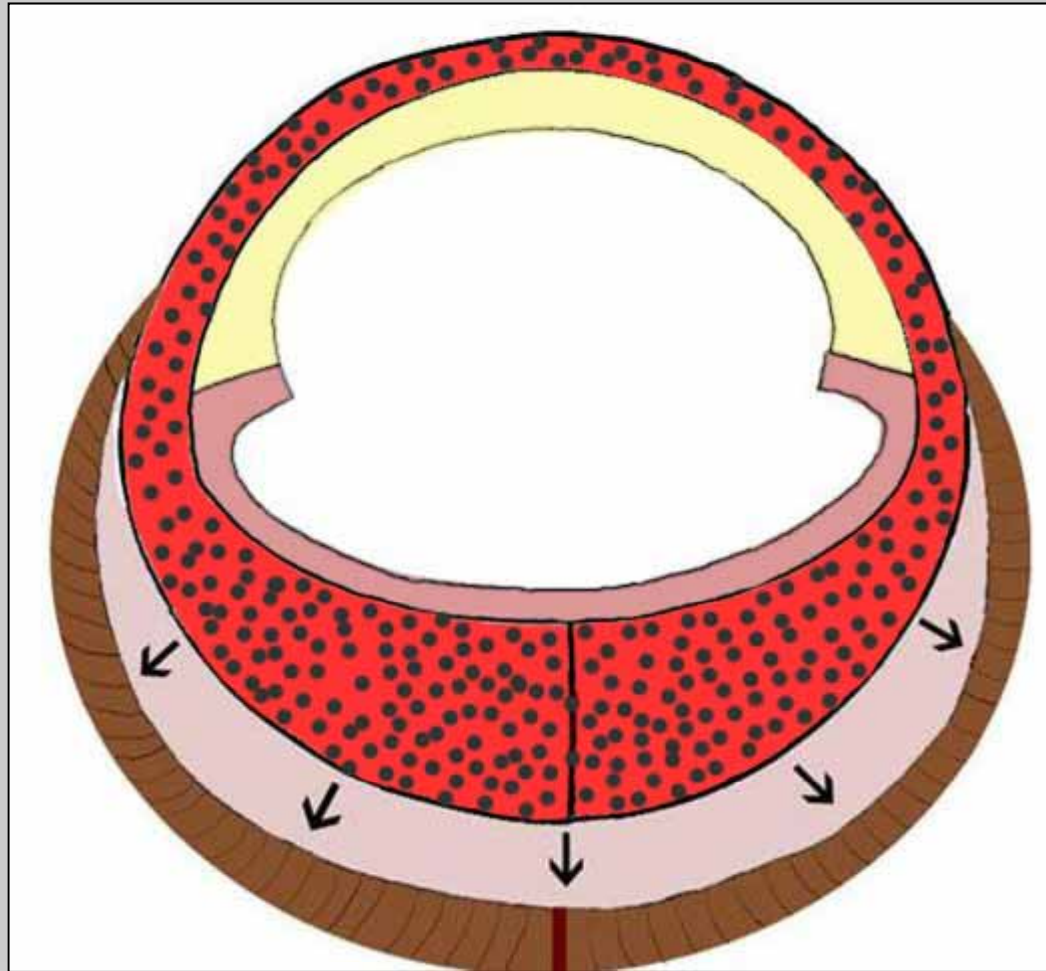


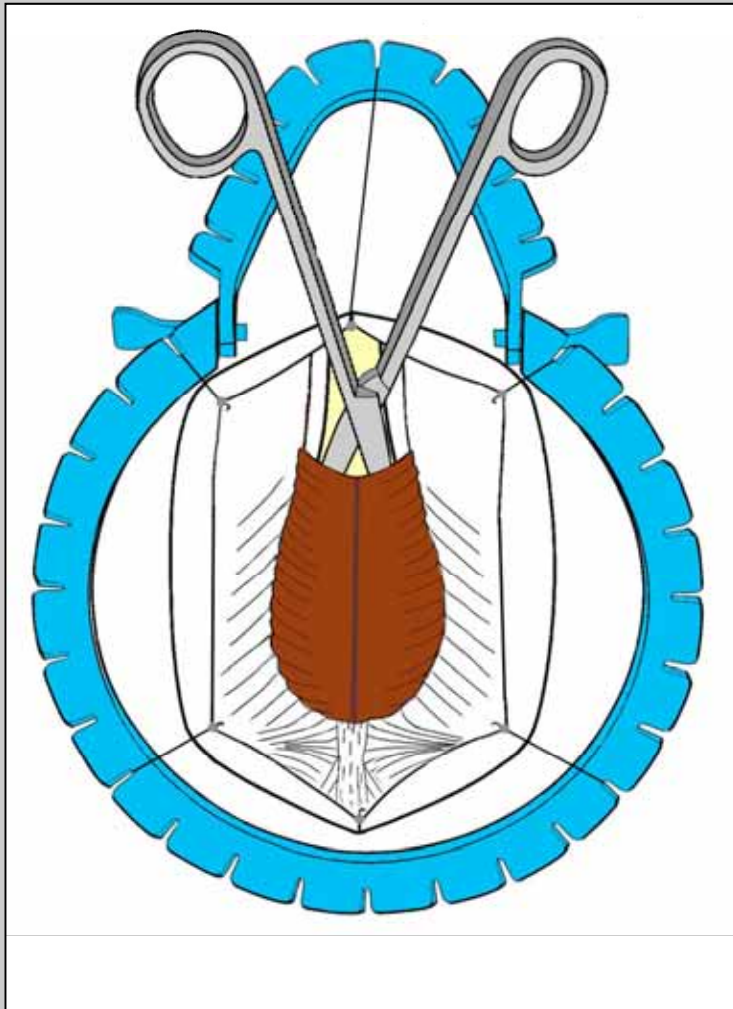




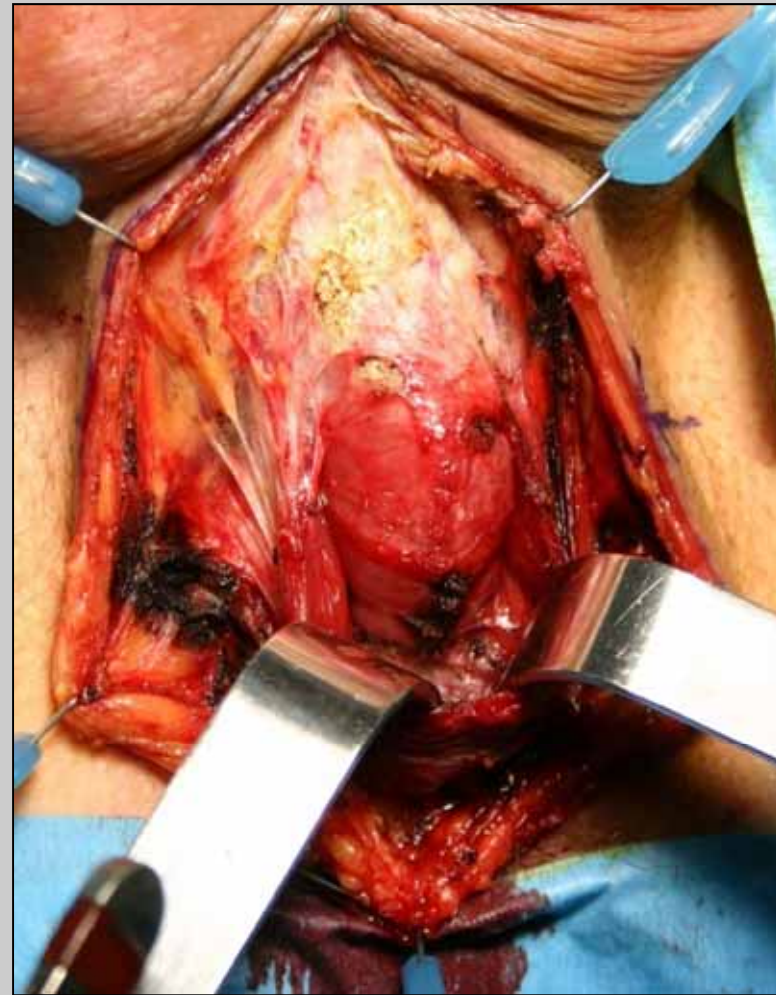
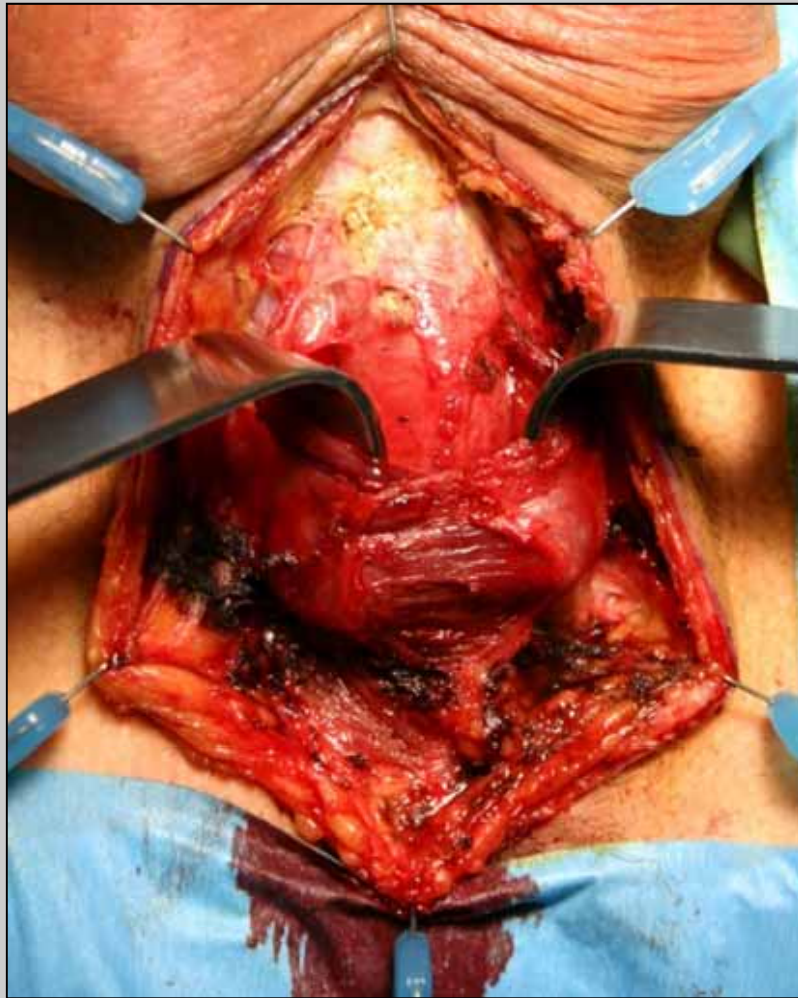


Muscle and nerve sparing **ventral** onlay graft bulbar urethroplasty

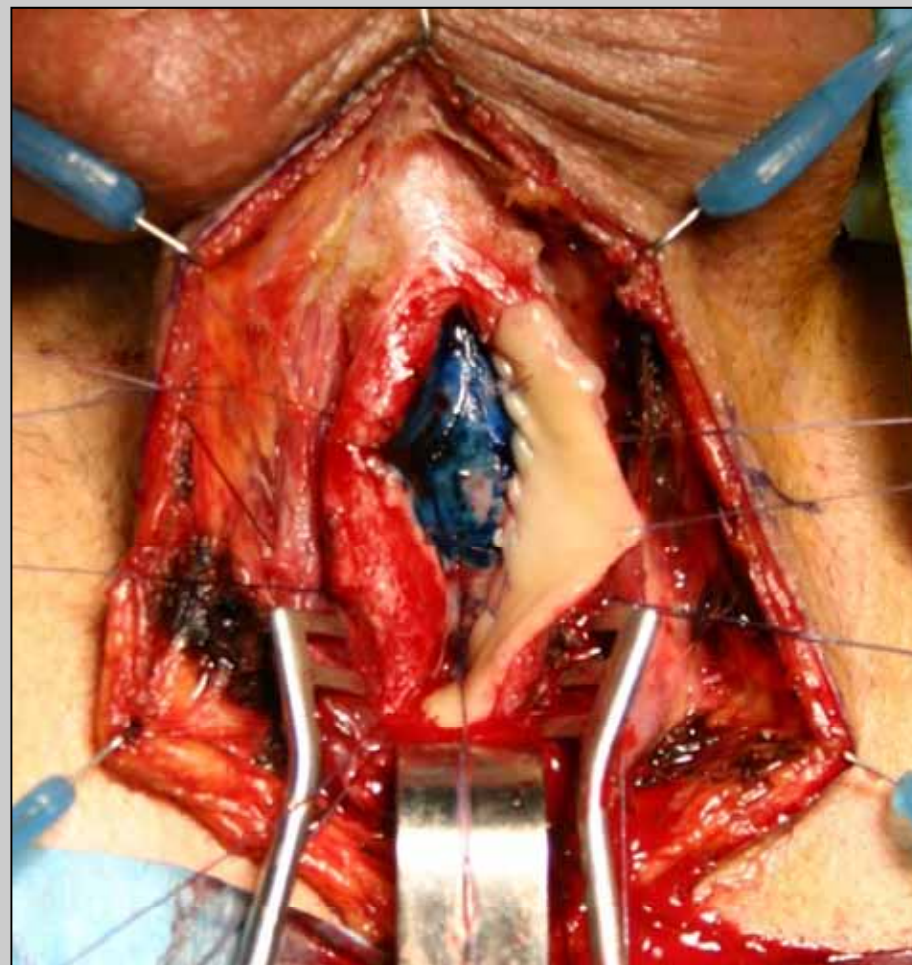
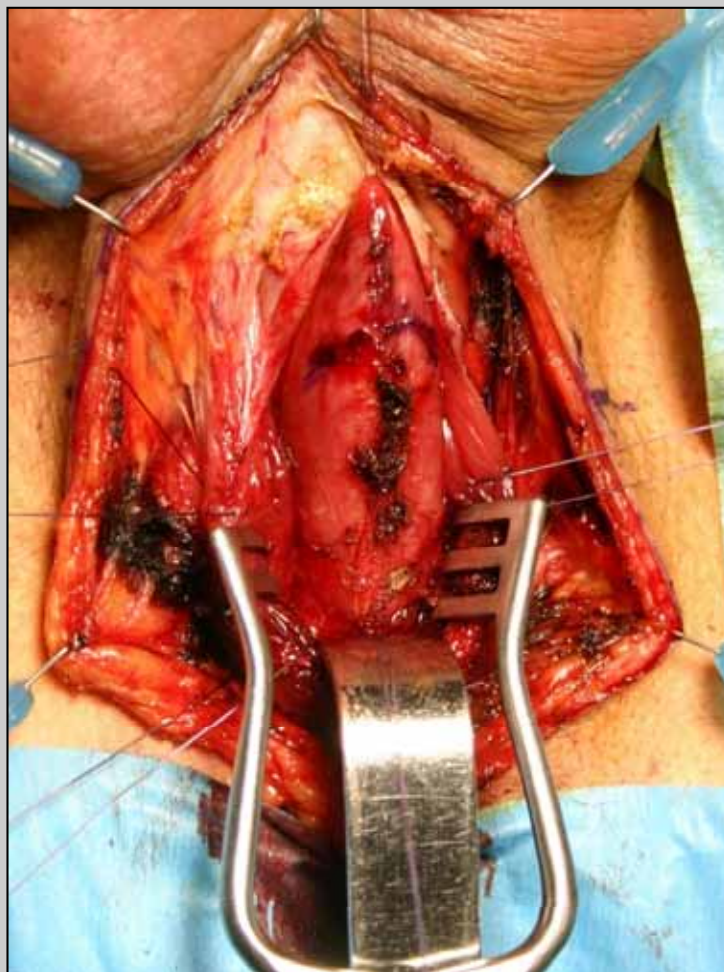




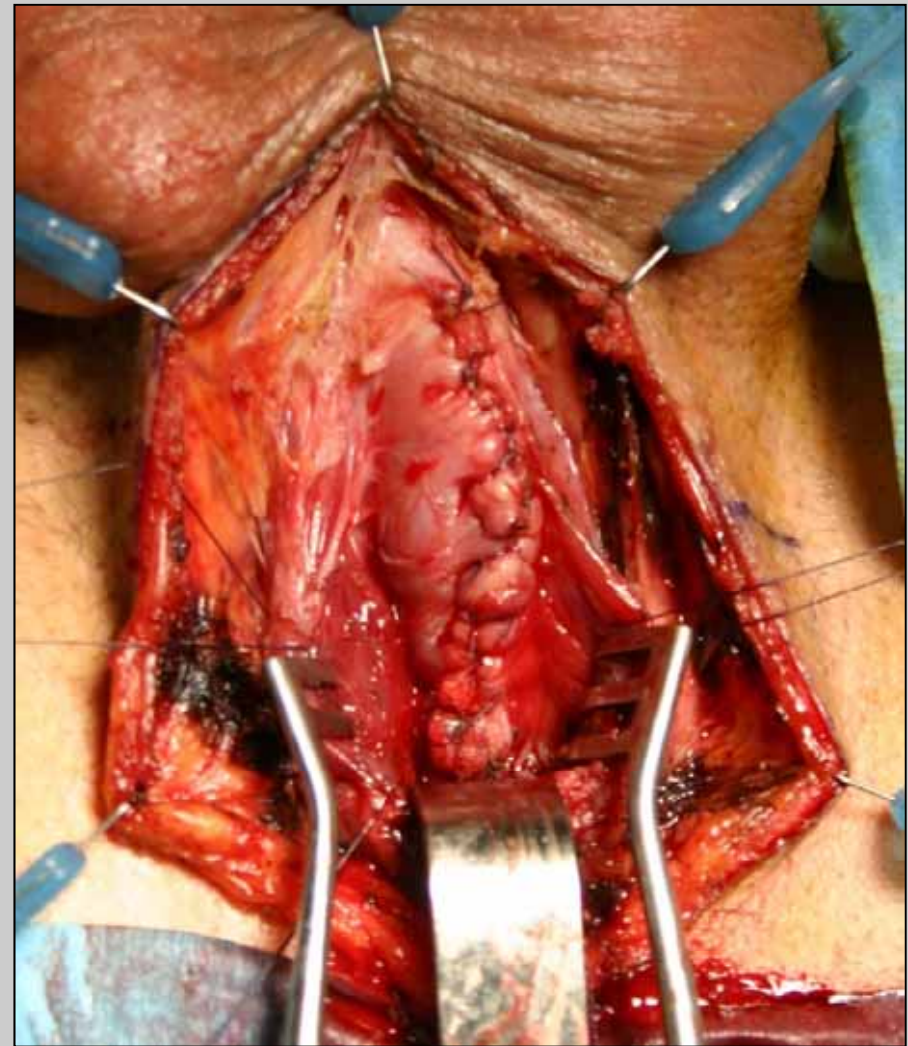
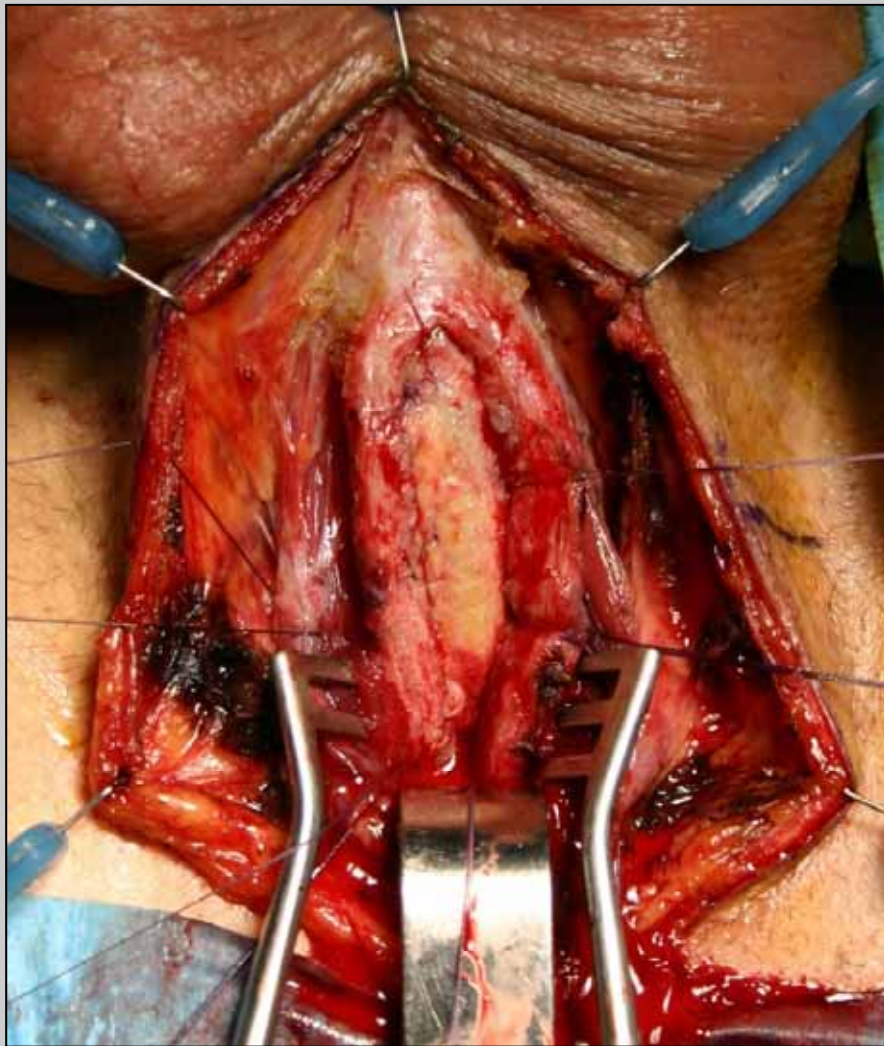
Barbagli G et al., Eur Urol 2008; 54:335-343



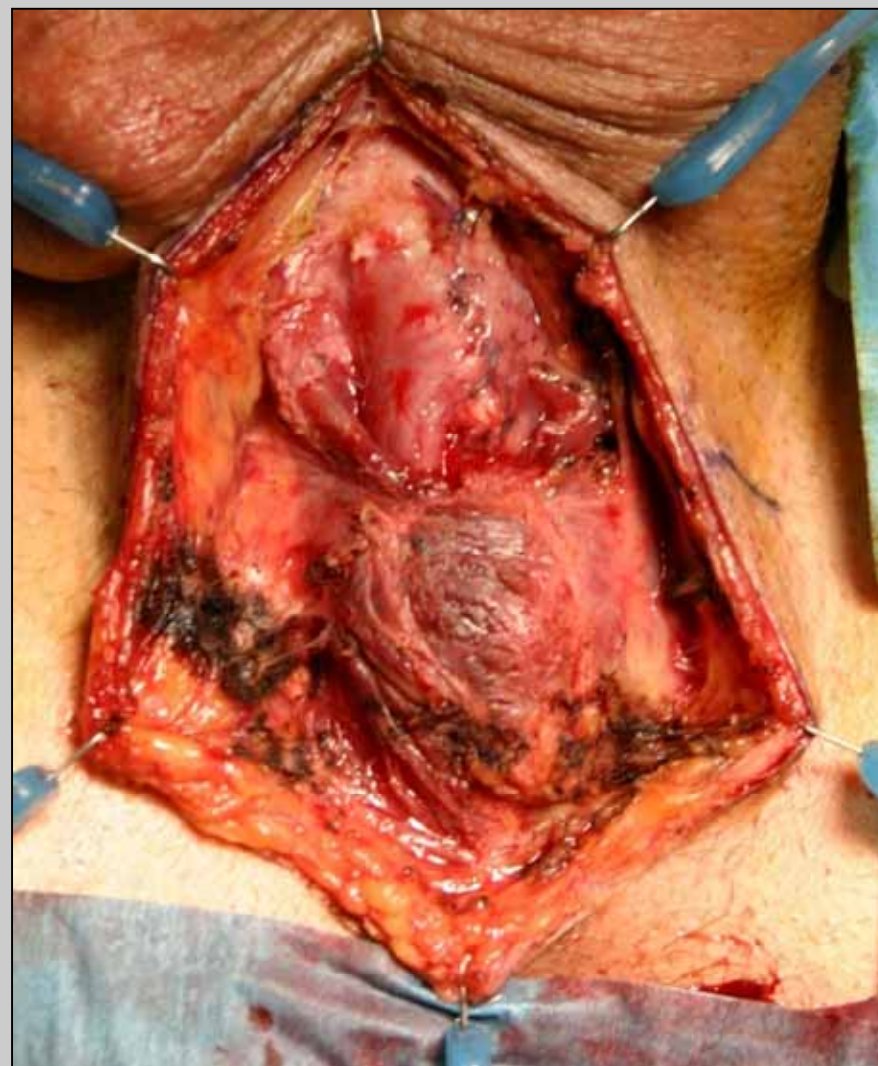
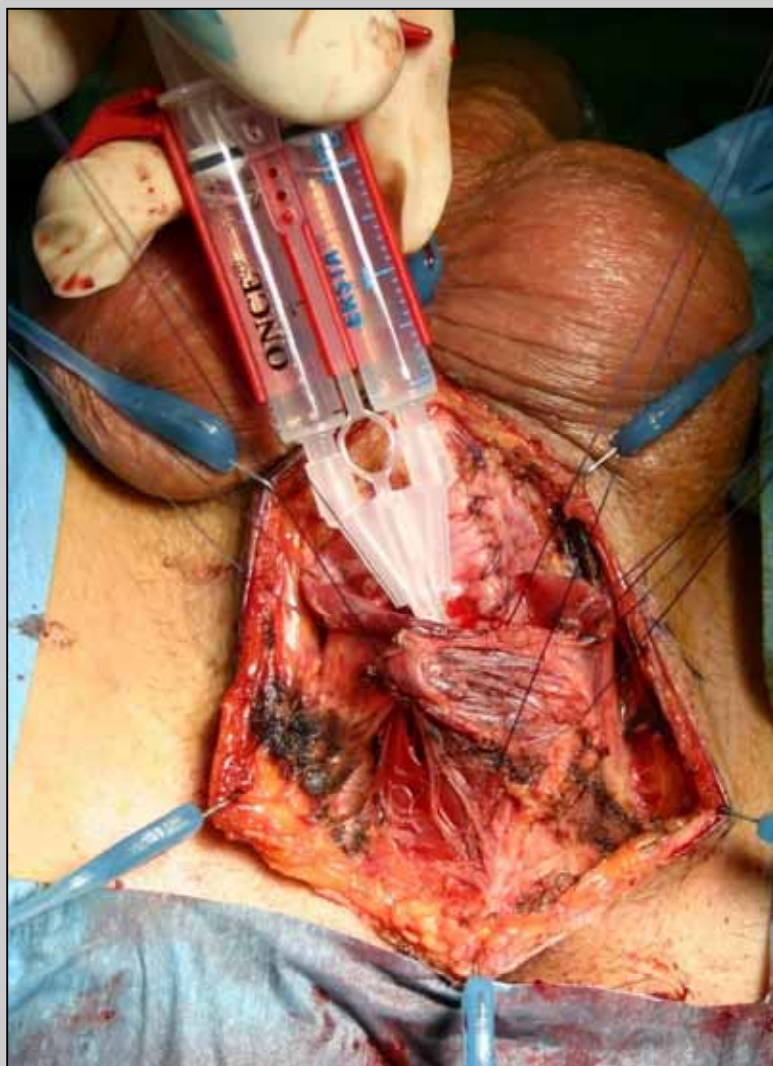
Barbagli G et al., Eur Urol 2008; 54:335-343



Barbagli G et al., Eur Urol 2008; 54:335-343



Barbagli G et al., Eur Urol 2008; 54:335-343



Barbagli G et al., Eur Urol 2008; 54:335-343

Conclusions

- **Reconstructive surgery for urethral strictures is continually evolving and the superiority of one approach over another is not yet clearly defined**
- **The reconstructive urethral surgeon must be fully able in the use of different surgical techniques to deal with any condition of the urethra at the time of surgery**

www.urethralcenter.it



Next month, this lecture will be fully available on our website

Thank you !