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Subsequent management of unsuccessful Fulshi clip tubal occlusion

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Laparoscopic tubal occlusion by the application of Fulshii clips to the fallopian tubes is a common gynaecological procedure performed throughout the world. It is usually considered straightforward with minimal laparoscopic difficulty in comparison to other forms of laparoscopic adnexal surgery.

As a method of contraception that is usually considered permanent, it does have a reported failure rate of approximately 1:200. The patient should be informed of this and in order to minimize this failure rate, a number of steps are suggested. These include; obtaining a comprehensive history particularly with respect to menstrual cycle and previous surgery, performing a urine pregnancy test on the day of the procedure and finally, avoidance of clip application if unprotected sexual intercourse has occurred during the luteal portion of the current menstrual cycle. However, despite these measures, a subsequent pregnancy may ensue.

This presentation describes TWO such cases of failed laparoscopic Fulshii clip sterilization resulting in subsequent pregnancies. The accompanying videos demonstrate the potential cause of the “failure” as well as the intraoperative management to re-sterilize the patients.

Finally, a brief literature review of such cases is included together with a suggested management plan.

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