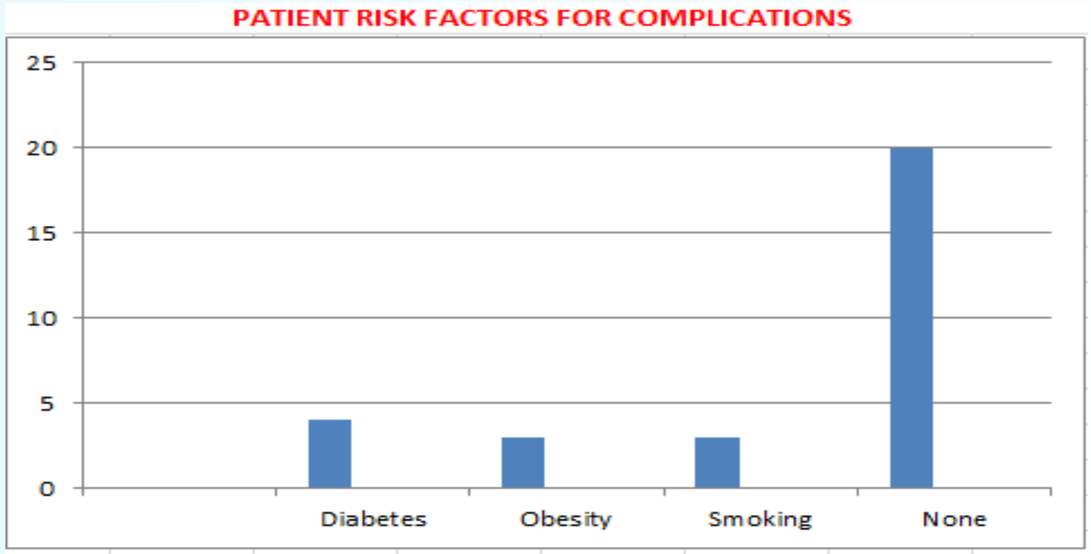
Impact of comorbidities on open ventral hernia repair

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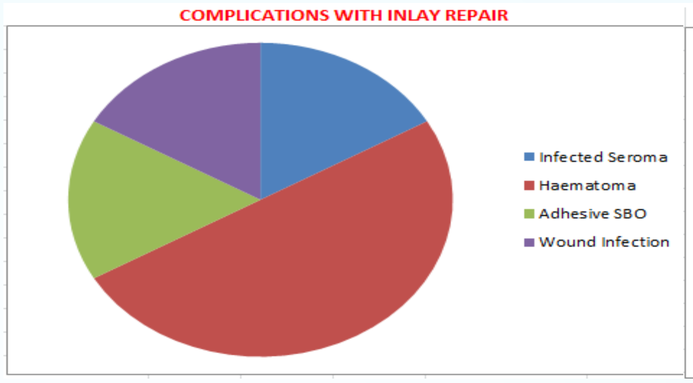
Introduction

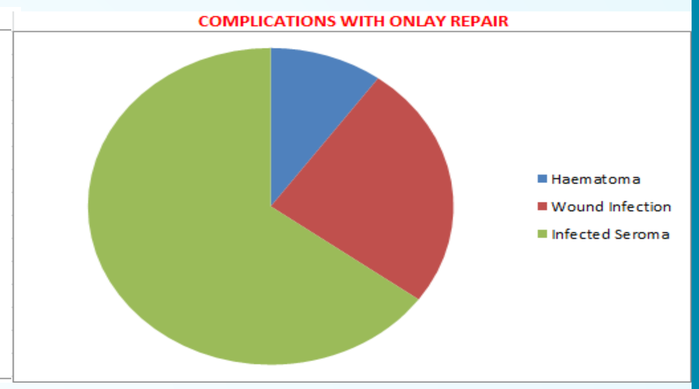
There are several factors that are known to affect the risk of developing incisional hernia and contribute to poor outcomes post hernia repair such as age, obesity, infection, diabetes and smoking.[1] Ventral hernias and the complications from repair can significantly affect an individual's quality of life and have health care implications in relation to prolonged admissions and readmissions. [1,2]
As a surgeon it is of most importance to evaluate the impact of comorbidities on surgical outcomes.



Methodology

We studied the comorbidities associated with complications by doing a retrospective study of patients that were readmitted within 30 days of the procedure between 1st May 2015 to and inclusive of 31st May 2018. Of the 312 patients that met criteria for inclusion in study; 71 were readmitted within 30 days of their procedure, 29 of which had complications related to the procedure.





Results

30% of patients had type 2 diabetes, vascular disease or obesity. 80% of readmissions had an onlay repair. The mean length of readmission was 2 days. The mean time to readmission was 16 days (range 1 to 30 days). The mean age of patients was 51 (range 31 to 84 years). Complications were attributed to haematomas (17%), infected seromas (73%) and wound infection (10%). There was a return to theatre in 34% cases. Polypropylene (prolene) mesh was used in 60% of cases.

Conclusion

Only one-third of patients had these comorbidities, which suggests that the technique of repair has more impact on the complication rate. Infected seromas as a complication of onlay mesh repair was the most frequent readmission. Thus surgical approach to open ventral hernia repair is likely to have more impact on the rate of recurrence, including inlay, sublay and onlay methods, suture technique and material.[1]

References

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2.Lopez-Cano M, Martin-Dominguez LA, Pereira JA et al. Balancing mesh-related complications and benefits in primary ventral and incisional hernia surgery. A meta-analysis and trial sequential analysis. Public Library Of Science. 2018; 13

3.Smith J. Parmely JD. Hernia, Ventral. Stat Pearls Publishing. 2018