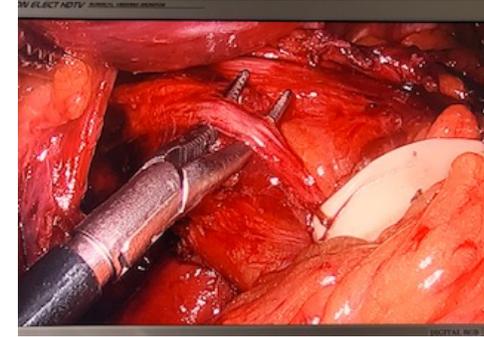


7 Year Retrospective Analysis of LINX Migration in Patients with or without Vagus Nerve Exclusion

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Objective: To analyze the significance of Vagus Nerve exclusion during LINX placement and its impact on device migration.

Methods: A Retrospective Study was conducted among Patients with LINX placement between the Period of February 2013 till February 2020. Lower Esophageal Sphincter Augmentation (LINX) device was placed in two community hospitals Orange Coast Memorial and Fountain Valley Regional Hospital. The total Number of Patients in the study were 92. The Male to Female ratio was 53(57%) vs 39(42%). These patients were between the ages of 23-72. All the patients had undergone the complete work up for patients with severe GERD and marginal response to PPI. The work up included EGD, UGI, Bravo PH acid study and esophageal manometry. There were 46 Patients in each group. Group A had LINX implantation done with Vagus nerve exclusion whereas Group B did not. Each patient was followed up Post operatively and Annual UGI was conducted to evaluate the positioning of the LINX device and to assess migration. In Group A 37/46 (80%) had hiatal hernia vs Group B 27/46 (58%). Hiatal Hernia was measured between 2-4 cm. The last group of patients included were operated on during February of 2019. Follow up was for a minimum of one year to maximum seven years. Hiatal hernia repair was done in all cases with hernia at the time of implantation. For the first 5 years 2013-2017 minimal dissection approach was used. Year 2018 onwards full hiatal dissection with cruroplasty was done irrespective of hiatal hernia or not.

Results: Yearly UGI did not show any migration of the device in either group irrespective of hiatal hernia repair or not. P-value is < .02. It was calculated by using Chi-Square.

Conclusion: It has been reported in the literature that migration of LINX device can occur. In our study there was no migration observed in either group. Therefore, a LINX device can be placed safely without the Vagus nerve exclusion. A high-volume Prospective Study can be conducted for further long term results.

