

A Natural "Venous Bypass" Causing Postoperative Recurrence of a Varicocele

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Operative treatment of varicocele by anatomically high ligation of the internal spermatic vein carries a 5% surgical failure rate, resulting in recurrence.

Detection of the cause of the recurrence can be done efficiently by intraoperative internal spermatic phlebography. In this case report, an unusual collateral vein causing operative failure is described with its management. The subject, a 28-year-old man, was seen for recurrence of varicocele following operative treatment

by anatomically high ligation of the internal spermatic vein. An unusual collateral venous "bypass" of the ligated vein was detected by phlebography. Reoperation using the lower transinguinal approach was curative. The operative correction of recurrence of varicocele by transinguinal approach combined with phlebography is recommended.

Key words: varicocele, spermatic phlebography, recurrent varicocele, anomalous internal spermatic collateral

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