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Introduction

Endometriosis is a chronic debilitating disease that affects 6-10% of women; of these women 5-30% suffer with advanced disease. Deeply infiltrating endometriosis can occur in a variety of sites; bowel, rectovaginal, bladder, pelvic sidewalls and ovaries, resulting in gross distortion of pelvic anatomy. Most commonly, patients complain of dysmenorrhoea, dyspareunia, dyschezia, altered bowel habit, constipation, diarrhoea and bleeding.

The overarching principle for surgical excision of severe endometriosis in a specialist centre is that all endometriosis is to be removed. We aimed to assess pre and postoperative bowel symptoms following excision of deep infiltrating endometriosis at a BSGE accredited Endometriosis Centre, to assess if optimal symptom relief was being achieved.

Methods

Retrospective review pre and postoperative bowel symptoms following excision of deep infiltrating endometriosis at Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow. Analysis of patient demographics, presenting symptoms, pre-operative imaging, surgical procedures, intra and postoperative complications, recovery and BSGE database symptom questionnaires pre, 6 and 12 months post-operatively, assessing bowel symptoms - frequency, urgency, incomplete emptying, constipation and bleeding.

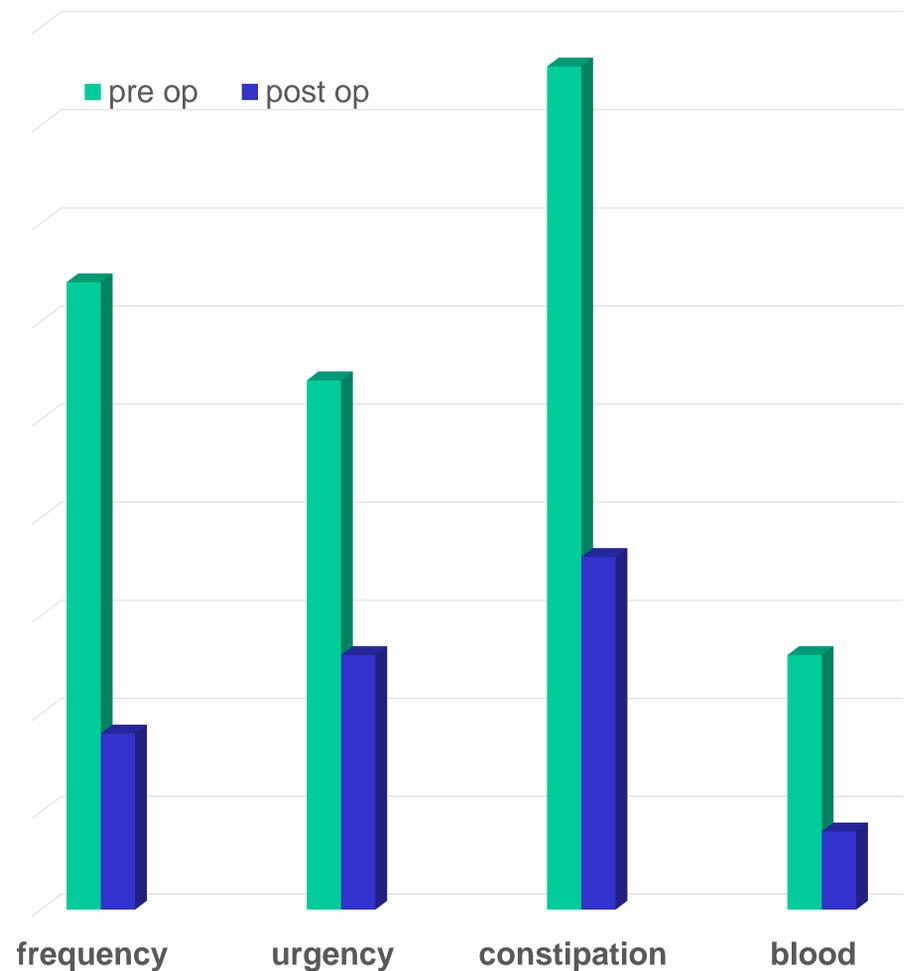
Results

Marked improvement in patients pain, bleeding and bowel symptoms following surgical excision of advanced disease, even when a more cautious approach to excision performed as per patient wishes.

Nil intra-operative complications, short hospital stay and quick recovery.

High patient satisfaction rates achieved with postoperative questionnaires.

Bowel symptoms pre and post excision



Conclusion

BSGE guidance recommends that surgical excision of advanced endometriosis should be undertaken in an accredited Endometriosis Centre where such work can be undertaken by specialist multidisciplinary teams and experienced experts in endometriosis surgery.

Results confirmed that our unit is worthy of its BSGE accredited status, with hopes for further improvements now an established Endometriosis Centre with dedicated experienced colorectal input.

* No conflict of interest