Wound closure and cosmetic outcome of delayed closure in gastroschisis using the Alexis wound retractor as silo: our early experience

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Objective: To illustrate the outcome of wound closure and cosmetic appearance of infants born with uncomplicated gastroschisis treated with delayed closure using Alexis WPAR®.

Methodology: Patients were retrospectively reviewed over past 2 years in HKL and UMMC. Exclusion criteria included those with bowel atresia, perforated bowel at birth and life threatening illnesses. Data collected included category of closure (sutureless versus sutured) and use of biosynthetic material for defect closure. Patients were reviewed on follow-up and cosmetic appearance was recorded between 3 months to 12 months of age.

Results: 12 patients had application of Alexis WPAR® as silo. 2 patients required application of biosynthetic material for closure of the defect; of which one died. 2 patients underwent delayed fascial closure whilst the rest had sutureless closure. The umbilicus appeared normal in cases of sutureless closure using Alexis WPAR®. Umbilical hernia was present in 40% on discharge. One still had a hernia at 7 months of age.

Conclusions: The use of Alexis wound retractor as silo followed by sutureless closure results in a cosmetic outcome comparable to that of pre-existing methods of defect closure. In addition, the cost of the device is cheaper than traditionally used preformed spring loaded silo and hand-sewn silastic sheet silo.