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Adhesion reduction with 4DryField®PH in endometriosis and other gynecological surgeries: a controlled, retrospective, single center study with second-look laparoscopy

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Introduction: Intra-abdominal adhesions are a very common consequence of abdomino-pelvic surgery. They can cause a range of problems such as secondary female infertility, dyspareunia, chronic pelvic pain, bowel obstruction or a complex combination of problems, i.e. adhesion-related disorder. Although a number of agents for adhesion prevention have been introduced, their efficacy is discussed controversially. In this study we used the adhesion barrier 4DryField® PH: a powder, based on modified starch, which is transformed into a barrier gel by mixing it with physiological saline solution.

Methods: The present study included 40 female patients, age 17 to 77, with surgery for endometriosis, peritoneal adhesions and/or other gynecological pathologies. Only consecutive patients, with a second-look intervention performed, were implemented. Anti-adhesive treatment was applied with 4DryField® PH as a gel (4DF group). Other patients did not receive any adhesion prevention (control group). The severity and extent of adhesion formation were scored during the first and second interventions following an established and scientifically validated score. The study was approved by the local ethical committee.

Results: Immediate hemostasis could be achieved with 4DryField® PH in diffuse bleeding. A direct comparison of the adhesion scores between first and second interventions showed that extent and severity of adhesions could be reduced significantly using 4DryField® PH as a gel. In contrast, no difference in adhesion scores between both interventions was detected in the control group. Furthermore, a direct comparison of the second-look laparoscopy in the 4DF and control group revealed that the adhesion extent and severity were significantly lower in the 4DF group.

Conclusion: The present study showed that 4DryField® PH can significantly reduce the formation of post-operative adhesions in gynecological surgery. These results demonstrate the adhesion prevention efficacy of 4DryField® PH, also documented in previous studies.

Keywords: adhesion prevention, endometriosis, adhesiolysis, modified polysaccharide barrier gel, second look laparoscopy

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