

ARE THE INHIBITORS OF SEROTONIN RE-UPTAKE A POSSIBLE TREATMENT TO RELIEF ANAL PAIN AND FAECAL URGENCY OF PATIENTS TREATED WITH LONGO'S PROCEDURE .A PILOT STUDY

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Introduzione: The occurrence of faecal urgency, pain and/or increased stool frequency has been reported in up to 31% of patients treated with Longo's procedure for third and fourth degree hemorrhoids (Cheetham MJ, 2000). In a recent preliminary report applying electronic barostat to study rectal function we have demonstrated that the occurrence of symptoms after Longo's procedure is associated with altered rectal motor and sensory response to distension. Considering the role of serotonin in modulating gut function, inhibitors of serotonin re-uptake have been proposed to treat the altered sensory and motor response to distension of patients with functional bowel disorders. *Pazienti e Metodi:* Seven patients (5 females) with third and fourth degree haemorrhoids treated with Longo's procedure were asked to report their gastrointestinal symptoms during the week before and during the after three months by the starting of a therapy with paroxetine 20 mg per day. *Risultati:* Five patients reported daily faecal urgency and two daily anal pain after Longo's procedure. After surgical treatment all the patients were studied with rectal endoscopy and anal ultrasound. After three months of treatment with paroxetina all the patients reported the disappearance of anal pain and faecal urgency. *Conclusioni:* If the results of the present pilot study will be confirmed in placebo-controlled studies, treatment with inhibitors of serotonin re-uptake, could represent an option in patients developing anal pain or faecal urgency after Longo's procedure.