7.Patient goals after operation in the posterior vaginal compartment

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**Background** For the surgeon the perception of success after operation in the posterior vaginal compartment for an enterocele or rectocele often relates to restoration of anatomy, whereas success for the patients is linked to achievement of patient-reported goals. This study describes patient-reported goals after an operation in the posterior vaginal compartment.

**Materials and methods** A prospective study including 87 women undergoing operation in the posterior compartment. Prior to operation the women were asked to list three goals they wished to obtain after the operation. Three months after the operation a Visual Analogue Scale (VAS) from zero to ten estimated the extent to which the goals had been achieved.

**Results** The goals were divided into eight groups: 1: bulging, 2: bowel problems, 3: urinary problems, 4: sexuality, 5: psychological problems, 6: physical activity, 7: pain and 8: others. A total of 233 goals were stated. A majority of goals were related to bowel problems (37.3%) and bulging (21.0%). Mean total VAS score was 7.6, and 48.5% of all goals were fulfilled with a VAS score of 10. Mean VAS score in bulging problems was 8.7, in bowel problems 7.4, and 5.0 in urinary problems.

**Conclusions** Approximately half of the patient-reported goals after posterior compartment operation were fully achieved. Most goals were related to bowel problems and bulging. Not all bowel problems are cured after operation in the posterior compartment, and women should be advised about this. All goals should be discussed with the patient.