

Urogynecology in China

Though the International Urogynecology Society has been established for many years, Chinese doctors adopted a more organized approach to modern pelvic floor reconstruction, dates from the year 2000. Prior to this, Chinese doctors had been engaged in pelvic surgery, such as anti-incontinence surgery (for example, transabdominal or laparoscopic Burch surgery), vaginal hysterectomy for uterine prolapse, anterior and posterior vaginal wall repair for vaginal prolapse, Manchester Repair surgery and Le Fort surgery. In 1950s and 1960s, Chinese doctors launched a large-scale surgery for pelvic floor prolapse and reproductive tract fistula, and accumulated rich experience. Since 2000, Chinese doctors have come to realize the link between these diseases and pelvic floor dysfunction (PFD), and accepted the concept of pelvic floor reconstruction. Some hospitals, such as Shanghai Jiaotong University Affiliated Sixth People's Hospital, Beijing Union Medical College Hospital and the Fuzhou General Hospital of Nanjing Military command, initially carried out the female pelvic floor reconstruction surgery in China. They began to perform pelvic floor reconstruction surgery using polypropylene mesh and sling, carried out basic research on PFD.

In 2004, China held the First National Conference of Urogynecology. In 2005, an official society, the Chinese Medical Association Urogynecology Society established. The society engaged in promoting new theory and technology of pelvic floor reconstruction to Chinese doctors. The society also held national academic conference of Urogynecology every two years to exchange experiences and promote new theories and technologies, and organized Urogynecology Continue Medical Education (CME) courses every year. In 2007, Shanghai Jiaotong University affiliated Sixth People's Hospital. Professor Luo Laimin et al translated and published the book named "The Female Pelvic Floor-Function, Dysfunction and Management according to the Integral Theory", written by the Australian Urogynecologist Professor Peter Petros. This book became a professional theory guide for the Chinese Urogynecologist.

Nowadays, the concept of Urogynecology was widely accepted in China. Chinese doctors also do large number of academic research every year. China has completed a national epidemiological survey, and showed that China's incidence rate of adult female urinary incontinence is 30.9%. Our basic studies have shown that both damage of pelvic floor ligaments and muscles lead to SUI and POP. Chinese scholars confirmed the specifically pelvic floor blood vessels and nerves anatomy to ensure the effectiveness and safety of reconstructive surgery. We also do some research of pelvic floor regenerative medicine. Meanwhile, the Chinese doctors also actively participate in IUGA and ICS Annual Meeting. Every year there were some Chinese doctors giving oral and poster presentation at these meetings. Many educational courses of IUGA and ICS were held in these years in China.

The career of Chinese Urogynecology is booming and growing. In 2012, the 42nd Annual Meeting of ICS will be held in Beijing, China. Chinese Urogynecologists hope to build cooperation, communication and further integration into the international Urogynecology family.

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