

References

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DISCUSSION

DR. GILBERT S. CAMPBELL (Little Rock): Dr. Read and Dr. Wagh, of the Surgery Department at Little Rock, have been interested for a number of years in connective tissue abnormalities in patients developing inguinal herniation.

They presented their findings at the European meeting of the Society of University Surgeons at Garmisch this past September. In brief, they have shown that the anterior rectus sheath is thinner in adults with inguinal herniation, especially those with direct inguinal herniation.

Its collagen content is diminished, especially in direct herniation. Fibroblasts cultured from the rectus sheath in men with inguinal herniation take longer to divide, and incorporate radioactive proline less actively than do the controls.

Purified collagen in the rectus sheath biopsies obtained from patients with direct hernia failed to precipitate normally at neutral pH, and contained 30 per cent less hydroxyproline than normal. Their results will be published, shortly.

I would have to say that I'm not sure how important collagen and some of these ultrastructural organelles are.