Abstract

Background: Fissure-associated anal fistulae are not recognized in Parks classification and are probable underdiagnosed. Aim: To characterize these types of fistulae and describe their surgical management and long term results. Material and Methods: Review of medical records of a proctology surgical team. Identified patients were contacted by telephone to know their long term fate. Results: Twenty patients aged 29 to 59 years (70% males), with fissure-associated anal fistulae were operated between 1998 and 2011. These corresponded to 4% of all ano-rectal fistulae operated in the period. A fistulectomy was performed in 65% of patients and a fistulotomy in the rest. In 50% of patients, internal lateral sphincterotomy was also performed. Follow-up information was obtained in 80% of patients, 71 months (range 7-169) after surgery. No relapses or reoperations were recorded. Two female patients referred occasional gas incontinence, not affecting their quality of life. Conclusions: Considering the trajectory of fissure-associated anal fistulae, they do not affect the sphincter. The usual surgical treatment has a good long term prognosis, except in patients with active fissures, sphincter hypertonia or stenosis.

Keywords
Anal fistula, anal fissure, anal sphincter.