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Laparoscopic adhesiolysis do we have the evidence? Yes

The role of laparoscopic adhesiolysis has been evaluated in several studies, but the level of evidence remained very low until the publication in the Lancet of the randomized Trial by Swank from the Netherlands. This trial comparing adhesiolysis with a simple diagnostic laparoscopy, has suggested that adhesiolysis is of no benefit for patient with chronic abdominal pain. The speaker discusses the weaknesses of that trial from a methodological point of view (mainly lack of power in a negative trial) and in the light of other published works. A more recent randomized trial suggested that right sided adhesiolysis could be beneficial. Facing with this always difficult situation, one cannot state, at present, that laparoscopic adhesiolysis should be abandoned in the light of the published trials.

Nowadays the evidence based answer is neither yes nor no, which is after all a routine situation in surgery. "We still do not know". Further well designed studies are needed to answer the question.