ULTRASOUND EVALUATION OF PELVIC FLOOR DYNAMIC IN CONSTIPATED PATIENTS: A NEW WAY OF DIAGNOSING FUNCTIONAL DEFECATION DISORDERS

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A pilot study established normal values for dynamic transperineal ultrasound with gel expulsion test and found the technique achieved 94.42% accuracy in diagnosing functional defecation disorders in 56 women with functional constipation.

KEY POINTS

- Seventeen healthy females and 56 females with Rome IV functional constipation underwent dynamic transperineal ultrasound with gel expulsion test; examiners were blinded to prior high-resolution anorectal manometry and balloon expulsion test results.
- Healthy volunteers showed increased pubo-rectal muscle length and increased ano-rectal angle during straining, while functional defecation disorder patients showed pubo-rectal muscle shortening and ano-rectal angle closure (all $p<0.01$).
- Using at least 3 out of 4 abnormal percentage variations during straining plus positive gel expulsion test yielded 92.11% sensitivity, 94.44% specificity, and strong association with functional defecation disorders (OR 198.33).
- The authors characterize the technique as requiring only a convex probe with no radiation exposure and state it can be performed by a skilled gastroenterologist.

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