

Caslick's Vulvoplasty Operation

- Advantages

Simple, standing procedure.

Relatively cheap.

- Disadvantages

The Caslick's operation requires repeated opening and repair for breeding and parturition. Repetition of the procedure, particularly with excessive removal of labial tissue, can lead to excessive scarring, loss of labial tissue and plasticity and eventual failure of the technique.



Step 1.

Restraint and careful preparation of the mare. The mare should be suitably restrained ideally in a set of stocks, her tail bandaged and her vulva thoroughly cleaned and dried.



Step 2.

The level of the pelvic floor is determined. This allows you to ascertain the level to which the dorsal commissure of the vulva must be sutured.



Step 3.

Infiltration of local anaesthetic ($\geq 25\text{ml}$) at the mucocutaneous junction of the vulva through a 21-gauge one-inch needle dorsally up to the dorsal commissure being sure that enough local is put right at the dorsal extent of the vulva. The local anaesthetic helps to evert the mucocutaneous junction.



Step 4.

Removal of a very narrow strip of mucosa using rat-toothed forceps and scissors a very narrow (no more than 4 mm) strip of mucosa from the anaesthetized area. In repeat mares, more radical dissection may be necessary before healthy (bleeding) tissue is reached.



Figure 12:

The submucosal tissues are sutured together using a cruciate or horizontal mattress pattern (high-tension area). The sutures can be permanent or absorbable & not thick to allow faeces to stick to them.

The aim of the operation is to reduce the vulval aperture and so prevent pneumovagina and faecal contamination of the vestibule.

References

<https://www.equine-reproduction.com/articles/VulvalConformation.shtml>

<https://www.vetstream.com/treat/equis/technique/vulva-caslick-operation>