Staged gastroschisis closure using Alexis wound retractor: first experiences

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Résumé en anglais	**INTRODUCTION:** The aim of this study is to analyze the effectiveness of an Alexis wound retractor (AWR) device for staged gastroschisis closures. **PATIENTS AND METHODS:** AWR device was used to cover unreduced viscera of a gastroschisis when primary abdominal wall closure was not convenient. The eviscerated organs were covered with one of the two spring-loaded rings of the AWR inserted underneath the abdominal wall. Gradual reduction was guaranteed through careful traction on the external ring. We retrospectively analyzed the prenatal, post-natal and operative data of the first patients treated with AWR and report their post-operative outcomes. **RESULTS:** The AWR device was used for staged closure in eight cases. Complete reduction and fascial closure were performed at a median of 3.5 ± 1.6 days. Ventilatory support was necessary for 4.0 ± 3 days and full parenteral feeds for 7.5 ± 6.1 days after fascial closure. Median full enteral feeding was observed at 18 ± 12.5 days after closure allowing discharge in a median period of 30.5 ± 15.6 days after closure. **CONCLUSION:** The AWR device is not only a safe and efficient silo for a progressive reduction of severe gastroschisis, but also an interesting tool for continuous stretching leading to an increase of the peritoneal cavity volume, enhancing the equalizing of the viscero-abdominal disproportion.
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