ABSTRACT

Objective: To compare the outcomes of immediate and delayed catheter removal of urinary catheter following elective cesarean section.

Study design: In a prospective clinical trial at a university teaching hospital, 180 eligible women admitted for primary or repeat elective cesarean delivery were randomized into two equal groups. In group I, the catheter was removed 18-24 hours postoperatively, whereas in group II, the catheter was removed immediately after the procedure.

Results: The incidence of postoperative significant bacteriuria (p=<0.01), burning micturition, dysuria, frequency, urgency are comparatively lower in Group II than Group I. The mean postoperative ambulation time (p<0.001), first voiding time (p<0.001), duration of hospital stay (p<0.001) were also significantly shorter in group II. There was no significant difference between the two groups in the incidence of recatheterization.

Conclusion: Immediate removal of urinary catheter following elective cesarean section is associated with lower risk of urinary tract infection and earlier postoperative ambulation.