

# The New Classification of Obstetric Vesical and Rectal Fistula

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**Introduction:** Several Attempts were made since Sims, to classify obstetric fistula. Different authors including the Hamlins, Waaldjik K and Goh suggested classifications based on different variables. However no consensus has been reached so far. Most of the classifications commonly share lack of Prognostic Value, lack of Objective Assessment of the various parameters, and involvement of a number of variables that makes the classification more complex. The authors suggest a new classification to improve the previous ones.

**Objective:** The authors present a new classification which is simple, has good prognostic value and accommodates all important variables more objectively measurable.

**Methodology:** This classification is based on the damage occurred to the bladder, rectum and the continence

mechanisms. The parameters to measure the damage to the bladder, the rectum and their continence apparatus were obtained based on the current knowledge of the female urine and fecal continence mechanism and from our own observation in the last 30 years. Seven variables which are found to have significant prognostic values from previous studies were used to formulate this classification.

**Conclusion:** We tried to base this new classification both on the current scientific knowledge and on our long experience and observation. While trying to keep it simple attempts were also made to accommodate as much important variables as possible. We think that this classification will be simpler and have a better prognostic value.