

Mesh Implants Pose Possible Complications

A surgical mesh is a device for women who have experienced damaged or weakened tissues or muscles that have in turn caused organs to prolapse. Such devices are typically made from either non-absorbable or absorbable synthetic materials. In certain cases, they are made from biological material as well. For certain uro-gynecologic problems, the mesh is permanently implanted through a surgical procedure within the vaginal wall. This procedure is designed to support the urethra and bladder or repair pelvic organ prolapse of other kinds, such as cervical prolapse, where the opening of the uterus herniates into the vaginal canal.



Once in place, problems such as incontinence or the inability to properly urinate are resolved. Additionally, problems such as painful bowel movements or the inability to empty the rectum without straining are almost always resolved as well once the mesh is in place. Up to 40 percent of women experience some type of POP during their lifetime, although fewer than 10 percent developed symptoms.

An Unfortunate Outcome

In July 2011, the United States Food and Drug Administration-FDA-reported almost 5000 complaints of malfunction, pain, injury and in rare cases, death, associated with vaginal mesh surgeries performed from 2005 to 2010. The conclusion reached by the FDA was that the complications from these devices were "not rare." The agency stated that vaginal mesh surgeries do not necessarily improve patients' quality of life over traditional procedures, and may even expose them to a greater risk of complications.



Symptoms of Vaginal Mesh Malfunction

The following are some symptoms of vaginal mesh surgery failure:

- Pain
- Prolapse recurrence
- Organ perforation
- Bleeding
- Infection
- Painful Intercourse
- Urinary problems
- Mesh erosion through the vaginal canal, also referred to as protrusion or extrusion
- Vaginal shrinkage and scarring
- Mesh shrinkage or contraction

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Many of the symptoms listed above ultimately led to hospitalization or additional surgical intervention. In certain cases, patients have required multiple surgeries to remove the mesh. More than one surgery was necessary in many cases because the mesh was designed to be a permanent implant. Therefore, numerous medical professionals compared its removal to the removal of chewing gum from hair, which is obviously challenging if not utterly impossible, depending on a variety of factors. The complications linked to the use of surgical mesh for pelvic organ prolapse repair have not been associated with a particular mesh brand. Rather, the reports of complications transcended all major brands and manufacturers.

Seeking Compensation

Anyone who has experienced mesh implant complications may be entitled to a monetary settlement for pain and suffering, medical bills or other negative factors directly related to the placement of the device. Those who have had this experience are wise to seek the advice of an attorney to learn about their rights and any possible recourse regarding this situation.

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