

## **PE1517/FFFF**

Sharon J Mercado submission of 22 September 2017

I had a TVT mesh operation in 2012 for treatment of SUI. I went through a number of examinations and tests prior to be offered this type of treatment but at the time of being offered the operation I was not informed of the risks associated with a mesh. I was not informed of how the operation is conducted only that the mesh is fitted vaginally and it is a simple operation that would be done as a day patient. I was informed of the normal risks associated with any surgery when an anaesthetic is being used. Following the operation I was discharged with no aftercare other than a standard letter to be given to my GP.

Several months after my TVT operation I started experiencing severe itching and a rash to my hands, arms, legs and abdomen. I attended my GP and was told it was common for women to develop dry itchy skin during the menopause and prescribed body moisturiser.

Since my operation the following symptoms have been reported to my GP, but each symptom has been dealt with as a separate issue rather than any connection being made to the mesh.

- Itchy skin rash to various parts of body
- Pain in legs, especially upper thighs
- Pain in buttocks
- Pain in lower back
- Return of SUI and some bowel incontinence
- Depression
- Severe pain in abdomen, (period type cramps and cutting sensation)
- Occasional bleeding from vagina
- Headaches
- Painful internals
- Sexual intercourse is impossible due to pain
- Vertigo – initially diagnosed as a TIA mini stroke
- Angina
- Weight gain

I have questioned the connection with my symptoms and the TVT mesh, but it has been dismissed by clinicians, without any reasonable discussion. Nobody wants to admit or even hint that the TVT has caused these issues.

My quality of life has been severely affected. I used to work full-time in a responsible job within criminal justice (I am now on sick leave). I used to love walking and dancing. I now can only walk a very small distance and have to use crutches. I cannot even go to the shops without experiencing pain. Driving is now becoming an issue due to pain which may eventually lead me to being unable to work as my job requires the use of a car for community outreach work.

I beg you to read and listen to people's experiences of the mesh, not just the clinicians that have fitted them and appear to be fudging the real truth! I have been injured by this mesh and want the Scottish Government to continue to take action now.