

PE1517/BBBB

Gill Hayward submission of 26 September 2017

I have had both tape and mesh inserted and now removed.

Before mesh was inserted I was working full time and had a hectic busy schedule. I was part of civilisation and would say I was just an ordinary working wife, mother and grandmother.

Straight after having the first operation for a prolapse using tape my whole life turned upside down. This was 10 years ago and I have never worked a day since. This makes me feel useless and I hate having to beg the government for benefits instead of working for a pay.

I started off with bowel problems which was quickly diagnosed as severe ibs. My stomach swelling up and my ribs being crushed. This took years to be diagnosed and eventually confirmed as Costicondritis. The pain was debilitating. I already suffered with migraines but they were now more often and the pain was more severe than ever. I was also diagnosed with fibromyalgia again this took years to be diagnosed. At no point was mesh ever considered as the reason for all these sudden ailments. Even after my visit to gynaecology for my post operation appointment. He sent me to someone to investigate the causes as he had never had anyone with these symptoms before after mesh. (I was later to find out it was mesh and I was not alone in this) I had never been told side effects as these were definitely on the list.

The prolapse came back and I was given the mesh this time even though my health was not good. Again I was not told of side effects as I would have realised that this was my problem and would not have put more of this poison in my system.

After this operation I kept falling over. My left leg kept forgetting to move. My worst fall was when I broke my hand and elbow. I fall all the time and am now on high mobility. This turned my life around again.

I eventually read an article about mesh and finally I had the one answer to my problems.

By this time I was in excruciating pain. After investigation my mesh had contracted and pulling my insides. I had to wait nearly year while in this pain after they knew I needed to have the mesh and tape removed. The reason for the delay was that firstly there were not many surgeons who could remove the mesh and secondly the patients on front of me were worse than me. I was regularly taken in through a&e for pain control while waiting in this operation.

Eventually it was removed. I was then told why I kept falling as the anchor in my left leg could not be removed due to the severe nerve damage. If removed it could have caused me to lose the use of my leg completely.

Since the operation nearly 2 years ago I have pain in my left side. This has taken nearly 2 years to be investigated and at the moment I am waiting on the results from a recent mri scan.

Having the mesh removed has stopped me getting worse. The immediate release of the mesh contracting was fantastic however I still have the other issues.

I have no confirmation but I think I am allergic to the mesh material. I cannot believe that there is no test to check for allergies when hair dressers would not put a hair dye on your hair without a patch test.

Mesh ruined my life. Had I been told the side effects and true statistics I would never have had the first operation never mind the second.

I do understand that this is a quicker and more convenient way for surgeons however as not all gynaecologists that insert mesh deal with removals they do not really know the true effects. The surgeons that deal with removals are the only ones that know the real truth.

Is it worth the risk in my opinion no.

I know if someone is told there are side effects most just say yes and trust the surgeon. This is not working for the woman and men of Scotland we need someone to stand up for the patients. This operation is ruining more lives than it is bettering in my opinion.

The first time I ever heard this operation had side effects was at my post op check-up for my second operation. The check was done by a visiting GP who worked on gynaecology once a month. She said that although the operation was successful if I had any pain in the future I had to go straight to my GP. I was a bit confused as I had never been told this before.

I was eventually retired due to ill health and this devastated me. I just wanted to be normal again.

Sorry for going on but I feel it is important to let you know what happened to me.

I am in constant pain every day. I spend most days in bed and when I do go out I am exhausted and worry about falling over and hurting myself. I am not the same family member. Not the same wife mother and grandmother. I feel like a failure and as if I am lazy. I need to remind myself I am sick not lazy about 100 times a day. I am totally depressed.