

PE1517/FFF

Jemima Williams submission of 11 September 2017

I am a Mesh injured patient from Wales and founder of the Welsh Mesh Survivor Support Group, which I set up in 2013. I have campaigned against the use of mesh implants since 2011 when I found out through the internet that I was not, as my surgeon had told me "The only one that this has ever happened to"
I had a surgical mesh implant for POP in 2002 - I was told I would be a 'Wonder Woman' afterwards. Yes. I am! I constantly wonder where the woman I used to be disappeared. Mesh has completely ruined my life and even after several major removal operations, between 2003 and 2013, I have recently been advised to have a colostomy. I cannot begin to tell you how angry I feel.

As a Mesh injured patient advocate I have seen the catastrophic effects that Mesh surgery has had on many, many lives. Men, Women and their Children. Last week a lady reached out to our Welsh Group because she had tried to commit suicide. Her husband and family were shocked and devastated. I spoke to her privately in order that I arrange a home visit with her. The lady said that the horror of having to have an emergency colostomy and the continuing pain of residual mesh inflammation had brought her so low that she felt that she was a burden on her husband and children. She had not even realised that she had spiralled into these depths of despair. She took a massive overdose along with a bottle of wine. I can't even imagine the darkness that this poor woman had endured during these moments, or indeed how her family must feel knowing how badly her physical and mental state had deteriorated before their eyes.

This is not a unique occurrence on the Mesh Support Sites. It happens time and again.

The Guardian Newspaper recently published an article quoting the English NHS figures that 1 in 15 women had to undergo Mesh removal procedures. 1 in 15 !!!! I have never been so angry. This is totally unacceptable.

I wonder what would happen to customer sales if a car manufacturer said that 1 in 15 of their cars would crash and burn, potentially maiming and disabling the driver for life? I know they would soon be out of business.

This is a matter of people's lives and health. I find it unbelievable that Mesh manufacturers consider that there is an 'Acceptable Morbidity Rate' when their products are implanted into a Patient - Not ONE person should be harmed by this device. Not ONE. God forbid this could be you, or someone whom you really love and cannot bear to live without. Which brings me to the comments at the bottom of the 'Hear our Voice' Petition. Page 5 Paula Bethany LeCompte. She died of complications due to failed Mesh. In recent years many of our good friends on the Mesh Support Sites have died. One of them a young mother of four very young children. We are People with Families - NOT PART OF ACCEPTABLE MORBIDITY RATES.

Mesh injured people all across the UK call upon Scotland to take the lead and continue to suspend the use of Surgical Mesh Implants until further long-term investigations have been carried out.

There can be no true statistical facts or evidence until there is a UK wide mandatory reporting of adverse events by Surgeons and also guidance to Patients to report

adverse events. A requirement for both early and long-term follow-up of Mesh Implanted Patients. A Register of Mesh Injured Patients linked world-wide. Better training for GPs and Surgeons in order to recognise the symptoms of Mesh Rejection.

In recent years the UK Working Parties and Review Boards set up to investigate these issues have all been a huge disappointment, with cries of whitewash. It is essential a new and unbiased national Review Body is set up to accurately identify the true facts surrounding the use of Surgical Mesh Implants.