

Mesh complications

SYMPTOMS

Patients may present with any of the following symptoms:

- Irregular vaginal bleeding or discharge
- Pelvic pain or swelling
- Discomfort during intercourse
- Recurrent or new bladder or bowel symptoms
- Prickling feeling or pain in the vagina, which may be exacerbated by exercise
- Buttock or leg pain: a searing pain

These symptoms are more likely to be mesh-related if there was recognised damage to the bladder, urethra or bowels during the original mesh procedure.

If a problem with a mesh device is suspected then the patient will need to be physically examined for any of the following signs of a mesh related problem.

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SIGNS

of mesh complications on examination

- Tenderness on palpating the mesh
- Graft / mesh exposure (erosion) into the vagina
- Mesh erosion into the bladder, urethra or bowel
- Failure of the procedure and recurrence of prolapse
- Vaginal adhesions and/or scarring

REPORTING



Any adverse incident involving a device should be reported to the MHRA, especially if the incident has led, or might have led to: deterioration in health or permanent impairment of body structure or function; the necessity for medical or surgical intervention (including implant revision); hospitalisation or prolongation of existing hospitalisation; death; life-threatening illness or injury.

<https://yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/>

The Patient Information Leaflets can be found here:

bsug.org.uk/pages/information-for-patients/111

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ACTIONS

Patients with mesh complications will likely require referral to a gynaecology or urology team.

Patients with significant mesh problems after Stress Urinary Incontinence or Pelvic Organ Prolapse surgery can be seen by the units below. Please click on the city for a link to referral information on the relevant unit.

These units are self-selected and this list will be updated so please check the link below for the most comprehensive list. Work is underway to commission mesh complication services through NHS England specialised commissioning.



Glasgow

Cambridge

Newcastle

Stevenage

Middlesbrough

Oxford

Manchester

London UCLH

Wakefield

London Imperial

Sheffield

London Guys & St Thomas

Birmingham

Bristol

Leicester

Epsom

Norwich

Eastbourne

A list of all the units is available here:

baus.org.uk/patients/sui_mesh_complications.aspx#return

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