

## Incidence of Mesh Exposure After Surgical Use of Polypropylene Mesh

### Hypothesis / aims of study

To determine the incidence of exposure of mesh previously placed in surgical reconstructive procedures for vaginal prolapse.

### Study design, materials and methods

With IRB approval, we reviewed all vaginal reconstructive procedures performed in our unit in which mesh was used between 11/96 (date in which we adopted use of Tension Free Vaginal Tape procedure [TVT]) and 12/09 to determine the incidence of subsequent surgery for mesh exposure.

### Results

One thousand seventy one cases of vaginal reconstruction were performed in which surgical mesh was used. All cases were performed under the direction of 3 staff urogynecologists in a teaching institution. The cases during the period of study were of 3 types, abdominal sacrocolpopexy (ASC), TVT, and Transobturator Tape (TOT) procedures. Polypropylene was used in each case. Of 123 ASC procedures, reoperation for mesh exposure occurred in 8 (incidence = 0.0650). Five hundred ninety four TOT procedures were followed by reoperation for mesh exposure in 17 (incidence = 0.0286. TVT was performed in 364 cases with reoperation for exposure in 4 (incidence of 0.0110).

### Interpretation of results

Differences in incidence of exposure after mesh placement suggest technical factors inherent to placement.

### Concluding message

A low, but measurable incidence of exposure occurs in all procedures using surgical mesh for pelvic reconstruction.

<b><i>Specify source of funding or grant</i></b>	<b>None</b>
<b><i>Is this a clinical trial?</i></b>	<b>No</b>
<b><i>What were the subjects in the study?</i></b>	<b>HUMAN</b>
<b><i>Was this study approved by an ethics committee?</i></b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b><i>Specify Name of Ethics Committee</i></b>	<b>USC Keck School of Medicine Institutional Review Board</b>
<b><i>Was the Declaration of Helsinki followed?</i></b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b><i>Was informed consent obtained from the patients?</i></b>	<b>No</b>