Incidence and management of mesh related complications in women who received mesh related surgery for pelvic organ prolapse over 11 years in a tertiary unit

**Objective:**
To review the incidence of mesh-related complications; subsequent management and surgical outcome, in women who received mesh related surgery in a tertiary unit in Hong Kong.

**Study Design, materials, and methods:**
- Prospectively collected database
- Demographic data, symptoms and POPQ findings
- Stage III/V POP
- Apical vault prolapse, Age ≤65 and/or sexually active
- Age > 65 and sexually inactive/medically not fit/more anterior compartment prolapse

**Results:**
- Total 280 mesh related surgery from 2005 to 2016
- Mean age: 62.9 ±10.3
- Concomitant continence operation: 26% (228/861)
- 1 bladder injury during trocar insertion (4A S3 T1)
- 1 mesh infection with abscess formation at vulva, requiring re-operation and whole mesh removed (6D S3 T2)
- 3 lost-to-follow-up and 2 had operation done within 3 months and no follow-up data (275 for analysis)
- Mean FU: 36.6 months
- 19 (6.8%) cases of mesh related complications
  - 17 patients (6.1%) had mesh erosion
  - Mean duration from index operation to mesh erosion: 19.7 months ± 16.7 months
  - All presented with on and off vaginal bleeding and only involved vaginal epithelium
  - No dyspareunia or vaginal pain despite sexually active
  - 64.7% (n=11) patients required surgical excisions
  - 47% asymptomatic and opted not for operations
  - All surgical excisions under LA except two
  - 1 GA with cystoscopy confirming no mesh erosion
- No other serious mesh related complications
- 4% asymptomatic and opted not for operations
- 94.4% patient’s satisfaction feeling well and asymptomatic at their latest follow up
- No recurrence of mesh exposure but at a relatively lower trend than other reported figures.
- Occurrence higher in vaginal mesh surgery (n=17, 89.5%) than in lap SCP with p-value = 0.01.
- Only 1 case of mesh infection with abscess formation (0.36%)
- No other serious mesh related complications
- 94.4% patients despite with mesh erosion remained well and asymptomatic at their latest follow-up (5.3-131 months after the last operation)

**Interpretation of results:**
- Major mesh related complication: vaginal mesh exposure but at a relatively lower trend than other reported figures.
- Occurrence higher in vaginal mesh surgery (n=17, 89.5%) than in lap SCP with p-value = 0.01.
- Only 1 case of mesh infection with abscess formation (0.36%)
- No other serious mesh related complications
- 94.4% patients despite with mesh erosion remained well and asymptomatic at their latest follow-up (5.3-131 months after the last operation)

**Conclusion:**
Mesh related complications are low and only around half of them required surgical treatment with good outcome. However, long term result of any further recurrence is needed.

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