



NATIONAL CENTER FOR
HEALTH RESEARCH
The Voice For Prevention, Treatment And Policy

Studies of Mesh for Pelvic Organ Prolapse

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Cochrane Review, 2016

Anterior Prolapse Repair: Mesh vs. Native Tissue

Outcomes	Mesh	Native Tissue	Relative Effect	Number of Patients
Repeat surgery for prolapse (1-3 years)	1.8%	3.7%	RR 2.03	1629 (12 studies)
Repeat surgery for stress urinary incontinence (1-2 years)	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.	881 (5 studies)
Recurrent anterior compartment prolapse (1-3 years)	12.6%	37%	RR 3.01	1976 (16 studies)
Newly developed stress urinary incontinence (1-3 years)	10.2%	6.9%	RR 0.67	957 (6 studies)
Newly developed painful sex (1-2 years)	7.2%	3.9%	RR 0.54	582 (8 studies)

Nightmare Adverse Events

- Unrelenting, debilitating pain
- Pain when sitting
- Pain during sex
- 5-10 surgeries
- Lack of surgeons willing to try to fix the problem

What kind of research is needed?

12 months is inadequate to put it on the market

- Are women with autoimmune symptoms or diagnoses included?
- Long-term research (at least 3-5 years)
- Subgroup analysis by age, BMI, race, and other variables

Shortcomings of registries

- Focus on re-operations
- Lack of information about pain and quality of life;
- Lack of info from other medical specialties