



Mesh removal in Australia

Recently there has been intense media interest relating to adverse events experienced by some women who have undergone mesh surgery for pelvic organ prolapse (POP) or stress urinary incontinence (SUI). To these women, as with all patients that experience adverse effects, we extend our utmost sympathy.

It should be emphasised that most women who have had mesh implants have had no problems, and they should not be concerned about the implant. However, for those women who have symptoms relating to mesh complications, it is recommended that, in the first instance, they see their original surgeon. Many mesh complications can be addressed without major surgery.

However, if there are ongoing mesh complications, in particular chronic pain symptoms, there is a misconception that there is no option to have the mesh removed in Australia or New Zealand. There are units in Australia and New Zealand that undertake mesh removal (partial and full removal) and the reasons why women are finding it difficult to access mesh removal is unclear.

Every woman's clinical situation is different and it is important to understand that mesh removal surgery may not address all of the symptoms that a woman may be experiencing. For this reason, mesh removal may not be an appropriate option. However, overall, we advise the factors that are important for women who may be considering a mesh removal procedure to understand are:

- the unit where the removal surgery is planned, should have experience in mesh removal; and
- ideally, mesh removal should be carried out as part of a multidisciplinary unit with access to a urologist, colorectal surgeon and/or pain specialist and a specialist pelvic floor physiotherapist.

RANZCOG recommends that women who are seeking guidance on mesh removal specialists in Australia and New Zealand seek assistance from a unit with a urogynaecologist. RANZCOG is able to confirm that this group of specialists has received formal training in mesh removal as part of their training Fellowship. There is a list of units with urogynaecologists in Australia and New Zealand found below. Alternatively, RANZCOG has a [locate an O&G](#) function on the [website](#) where individuals can search for urogynaecologists who have consented to being listed.



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While there may be general gynaecologists practising in Australia and New Zealand that are experienced and trained in mesh removal, RANZCOG does not formally undertake this training for this group of practitioners and we therefore recommend that women inform themselves about whether their specialist is trained and experienced in mesh removal before the procedure takes place.

Urogynaecology units in Australia and New Zealand

State/Country	City	Hospital/Training Unit
Victoria	Melbourne	Mercy Hospital for Women
	Melbourne	Monash Medical Centre
	Melbourne	Royal Women's Hospital
New South Wales	Sydney	St George Hospital
	Sydney	The Royal Prince Alfred Hospital
Queensland	Brisbane	Royal Brisbane and Mater Hospitals and Wesley urogynaecology
	Brisbane	Greenslopes, QE11 and Pindara Hospitals
	Gold Coast	Gold Coast Hospital
Western Australia	Perth	King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women
New Zealand	Auckland	Middlemore Hospital
	Auckland	Auckland City Hospital