



# Mesh removal in New Zealand

Adverse events have been experienced by some women who have undergone mesh surgery for pelvic organ prolapse (POP) or stress urinary incontinence (SUI). To these women we extend our utmost sympathy.

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.

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. Many mesh complications can be addressed without major surgery.

There are general gynaecologists practicing in New Zealand that are experienced and trained in mesh removal. However, as RANZCOG does not formally undertake this training for this group of practitioners, we are unable to directly identify which surgeons are qualified to perform mesh removal in New Zealand.

We recommend that women considering a mesh removal procedure ask their surgeon:

- if they have had specific training in mesh removal
- how many mesh removal operations they have performed and their success rate
- if the wider unit in which they are working has experience in mesh removal
- if the mesh removal will 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.

It is important to be aware that you may need to travel if your local surgeon and / or hospital does not have access to a multidisciplinary team with this expertise. If the procedure is complex or higher-risk you may require referral to another surgeon with greater training and experience in mesh removal.