

05 April 2018



Re Official Information Request – number of procedures involving surgical mesh

I refer to your Official Information Act request of 27 February 2019 for the following information:

- 1. Please provide information showing the number of procedures performed at Auckland City district health board in 2018 involving surgical mesh.***
- 2. Please provide a breakdown showing what these procedures were for (i.e implantation for SUI, removal, partial removal etc. Please note the 'categories' listed are examples, and provided to assist in understanding with the nature of this request. They are not absolute nor exhaustive). If you are unable to provide the information, please explain why.***
- 3. Please provide the same information for 2019, and the 9 prior years to 2018 (2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009).***

We have provided the information under each of your questions below.

- 1. The number of procedures performed at Auckland City district health board in 2018 involving surgical mesh***

Surgical Services

This information has been identified from the Patient Information Management System (PIMS) using the free text code description fields where the word mesh is mentioned and is indicative only. Currently MESH cannot be identified from procedural codes.

Based on this information we have identified 345 procedures involving surgical mesh at ADHB in 2018.

National Women's mesh procedures

The National Women's Annual clinical report is a public document and accessible under Urogynaecology <http://nationalwomenshealth.adhb.govt.nz/healthprofessionals/annual-clinical-report/>

Data for 2018 is being reviewed and is not currently available. It will be included in the 2019 National Women's Annual Clinical Report to be produced in August. Your request is therefore declined under section 18(e) in that the document containing the information does not exist or cannot be found

2. **A breakdown showing what these procedures were for (i.e implantation for SUI, removal, partial removal etc. Please note the 'categories' listed are examples, and provided to assist in understanding with the nature of this request. They are not absolute nor exhaustive). If you are unable to provide the information, please explain why.**

3. **Provide the same information for 2019, and the 9 prior years to 2018 (2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009).**

Surgical Services

Count of NHI Type	DischYear											Grand Total
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
Adjustment of breast tissue expander				1					1			2
Bypass with mesh			1				1					2
Closure of diaphragmatic hiatus							1		2	1		4
Cranioplasty using mesh				2			1	3		1		7
Excision of mesh		1	1		1	2			1	3		9
Fundoplasty					1					1		2
Hernia Repair	50	27	145	92	77	69	91	123	260	304	45	1283
Male stress incontinence										1		1
Orchidopexy with mesh							1					1
Pelvic exenteration										1		1
Rectopexy	2	4	10	6	5	5	8	6	20	12		78
Repair oesophagus				1								1
Repair of abdomen defects/wounds/	6	4	5	8	8	7	7	5	7	4	1	62
Repair of bladder					1							1
Repair of Ear defect								1				1
Repair of free flap site						1						1
Repair of orbital cavity		1		1						1	1	4
Repair of peritineal cavity		1										1
Repair of prolapse										1		1
Repair of rectus sheath				1	2			1				4
Repair of soft tissue							1	2				3
Repair of tendon										1		1
Repair pectus excavatum										2		2
skin graft										1		1
Removal Mesh	7	8	12	10	8	7	6	3	11	11	2	85
Grand Total	65	46	174	122	103	91	117	144	302	345	49	1558

Note the information is indicative only and the data table figures for 2017-2018 indicates either improved coding or an actual increase in use of mesh. The data for 2019 has only 2.5 months of data due to a coding lag.

National Women's mesh procedures

Data for 2019 National Women's mesh procedures is not available for release because it is not available at this stage of the year. Your request is further declined under section 18(e) in that the information is not available. The 2020 Women's Annual Clinical report due out in August next year will include this information.

Gynaecology mesh procedures performed at National Women’s hospital, Auckland City Hospital included Transvaginal mesh (TVM) for prolapse, Sacrocolpopexy (SCP), and Tension free vaginal tape (TVT) for all midurethral slings for incontinence. A mesh complication code is being added to the database for future reporting in the annual clinical report. The mesh complication surgery reported in the table was drawn manually from the 2018 annual clinical report and surgeons dealing with mesh complications suggest the information reflects the number of cases dealt with on an annual basis.

Mesh procedures undertaken from 2009 through to 2017

Year	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
TVT	36	27	62	85	109	115	112	NA	NA
SCP	7	3	4	1	1	0	0	NA	NA
TVM	0	0	0	2	8	22	29	37	32
Mesh Complication surgery	11 (3 from Auckland DHB and 8 from mesh placed in other hospitals)								

Please note: Urogynaecology procedures were not divided into separate procedures until 2011. The total number of urogynaecology procedure in 2010 was 200, but there is no information about whether it was a mesh procedure or native tissue prolapse repair. TVMs were audited between 2005 and 2013. We have not placed TVM for prolapse since 2014 .

You are entitled to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the Auckland DHB website.

Yours faithfully



Ailsa Claire, OBE
Chief Executive