

# Transvaginal mesh complications

Transvaginal mesh is a specific surgical mesh that has been used to manage stress urinary incontinence problems for women. In November 2017, the TGA announced that mesh devices are no longer to be used in Australia for the treatment of most pelvic organ prolapse. While this treatment is successful for some women, others unfortunately have complications very soon after their operation or years later.

## SYMPTOMS

Patients may present with any of the following symptoms:

- Irregular vaginal bleeding or discharge
- Pelvic pain or swelling
- Discomfort during intercourse
- Recurrent or new bladder and bowel symptoms
- Prickling feeling or pain in the vagina which may be exacerbated by exercise
- Buttock, leg or abdominal pain
- Recurrent urinary or vaginal infections

These symptoms are more likely to be mesh-related if there was recognised damage to the bladder, urethra or bowels during the original mesh procedure.

If a problem with a transvaginal mesh device is suspected the patient will need to be physically examined for any of the following signs of a transvaginal mesh related problem.

1

## SIGNS

Signs of mesh complications on examination:

- Tenderness on palpating the mesh
- Graft/mesh exposure (erosion) into the vagina
- Mesh erosion into the bladder, urethra or bowel
- Vaginal adhesions and/or scarring

Reporting adverse effects from transvaginal mesh

Any adverse effects experienced as a result of transvaginal mesh should be reported to the **Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration**. Healthcare providers can speak to the TGA about a problem with a device on 1800 809 361 between 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday or visit [tga.gov.au](http://tga.gov.au).

2

## ACTIONS

Patients with transvaginal mesh complications may require a multidisciplinary team for treatment.

Patients with significant mesh problems after stress urinary incontinence or pelvic organ prolapse surgery can be seen by the units below. These units have a multidisciplinary team of health professionals to help patients on a case-by-case basis.

**Royal Women's Hospital** (03) 8345 3143

**Mercy Hospital for Women** (03) 8458 4500

**Monash Health** (03) 9928 8588

**Western Health** 0481 908 118

### Information and support for patients

#### Victorian mesh information and helpline

1800 55 6374 (1800 55 MESH)

#### Patient rights

##### Charter of Healthcare Rights

[safetyandquality.gov.au/national-priorities/charter-of-healthcare-rights](http://safetyandquality.gov.au/national-priorities/charter-of-healthcare-rights)

##### Freedom of Information Commissioner

[foicommissioner.vic.gov.au](http://foicommissioner.vic.gov.au)

##### Health Complaints Commissioner

[hcc.vic.gov.au](http://hcc.vic.gov.au)

3

To receive this publication in an accessible format phone (03) 9096 1384 using the National Relay Service 13 36 77 if required, or email [safercarevictoria@dhhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:safercarevictoria@dhhs.vic.gov.au).

Available at [www.safercare.vic.gov.au](http://www.safercare.vic.gov.au).

Authorised and published by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne.

© State of Victoria, Safer Care Victoria, January 2018.