

Gastro-intestinal and urinary symptoms following polypropylene mesh surgery for pelvic organ prolapse

Elvira Bratila¹, Monica Cirstoiu¹, Costin Berceanu², Diana-Elena Comandasu¹, Claudia Mehedintu¹

¹“Carol Davila” University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Bucharest, Romania

²University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Craiova, Romania

Surgical treatment using polypropylene mesh for different types of pelvic organ prolapse is becoming a more and more widely spread technique. The use of synthetic mesh instead of native tissues in the treatment of prolapse is a practice developed in the last twenty years. Along with the correction of prolapse its symptoms disappear, but they may be replaced by de novo symptomatology. The most common symptoms following mesh surgery include gastro-intestinal and urinary manifestations. The intestinal signs post-mesh surgery involve chronic constipation, difficult or incomplete evacuation sensation or faecal imperiosity. De novo urinary symptoms following prolapse surgery include painful micturition, incomplete bladder evacuation or urinary urgency. These postoperative manifestation are more common following prolapse surgery compared to stress urinary incontinence. They can be explained by poor tissue integration of the mesh or on the contrary, mesh constriction causing frequently pain. Other causes of postoperative symptomatology are mesh erosion or extrusion. In these cases the effective porosity of the mesh appears to be the leading cause of the complication, scanning electron microscopy (SEM) demonstrating the altered surface morphology of the mesh. Although there are factors depending on the patient's immune response to foreign material and the operative technique, the characteristics of the polypropylene mesh seem to be the most important factor in the occurrence of post-surgical symptomatology.