

#### **SLING THE MESH SURVEY 2020**

Pain while walking is the most common symptom experienced by women suffering complications following a mesh implant surgery, a new survey has revealed.

Sling The Mesh asked its 8,600 members how their life had been impacted since having a mesh implant. The top five most common complications experienced were painful to walk, urinary urgency, painful to sit, severe fatigue and IBS bloating.

These were followed by chronic hip and leg pain, discomfort during sex, brain fog, urinary frequency and anxiety.

Respondents were asked to indicate, from a list, any symptoms they had which were new onset or had worsened since mesh surgery. They were also invited to add any symptom not already stated which they had which developed soon after mesh surgery, or which they associated with it.

Symptoms were then grouped into categories, with the number of respondents listed. Symptoms with under 35 respondents were excluded.

The survey reveals that serious health problems include depression and suicidal thoughts, constant urinary tract infections, sepsis and a host of auto immune diseases like arthritis and painful joints, Lichens Schleroiss and Sjorgens Syndrome. High on the list is fibromyalgia, numb legs and feet, severe dry eye, nerve damage in the groin and constipation.

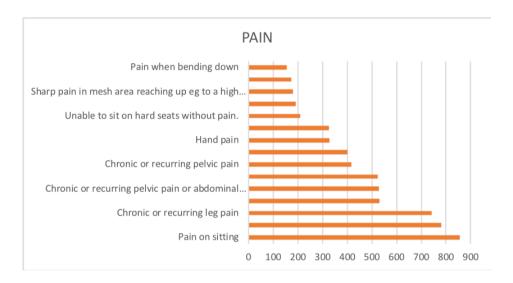
There were almost 300 women who reported mesh slicing into their vagina and 148 who said their mesh had cut into their bladder, urethra or bowel.

#### MOST COMMON SYMPTOMS SUFFERED

Pain on walking	934
Urinary Urgency	919
Pain on sitting	856

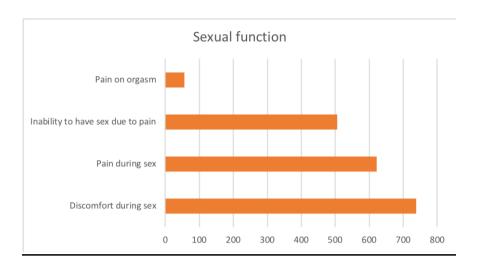
Severe fatigue	811
IBS symptoms – bloating	798
Chronic or recurring hip pain	781
Chronic or recurring leg pain	741
Discomfort during sex	738
Brain Fog	720
Urinary frequency	685
Anxiety	629
Pain during sex	622
Urinary incontinence	615
Constination	590

## Categories



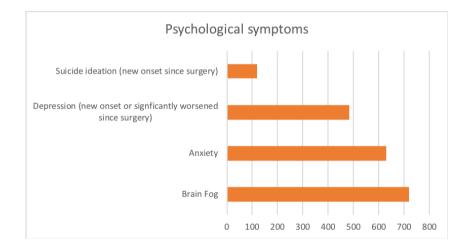
### 1. Pain

Pain on walking	934
Pain on sitting	856
Chronic or recurring hip pain	781
Chronic or recurring leg pain	741
Chronic or recurring lower back pain	530
Chronic or recurring pelvic pain or abdominal pain	528
Chronic or recurring buttock pain	524
Chronic or recurring pelvic pain	417
Sharp pain between pubic bone and leg	400
Hand pain	327
Burning pain	324
Unable to sit on hard seats without pain.	208
Had my mesh removed but still in pain due to nerve damage	191
Sharp pain in mesh area reaching up eg to a high shelf etc	179
Severe back pain, Protacks embedded into S spine.	173
Pain when bending down	154



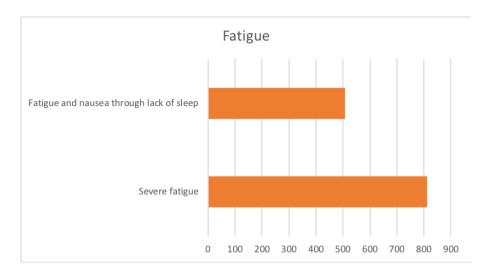
#### 2. Sexual function

Discomfort during sex	738
Pain during sex	622
Inability to have sex due to pain	506
Pain on orgasm	56



#### 3. Psychological -anxiety, depression etc.

Brain Fog	720	
Anxiety	629	
Depression (new onset or worsened since surgery)	483	
Suicide ideation (new onset since surgery)	119	

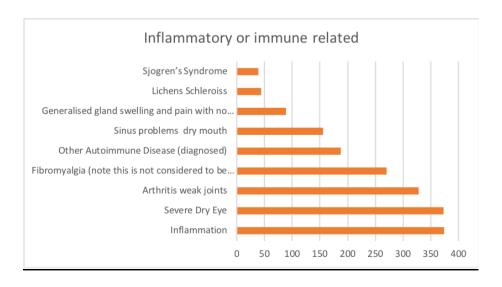


### 4. Fatigue related

Severe fatigue	811	
Fatigue and nausea through lack of sleep	507	

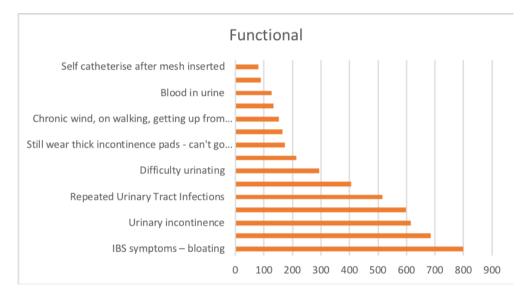
#### 5. Neurological/numbness

Nerve damage in groin area	482
Numbness in legs and feet	466
Lifting legs up feeling heavy up stairs	417
Daily headache	248
Nerve pain on removal area when walk or stand throbs and burns also affects sleeping	241
Migraines	156
Leg collapses and falls	171
Labia nerve damage where instruments went during op	35



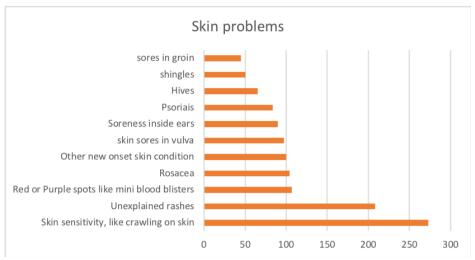
#### 6. Inflammatory or immune system related

Inflammation
Severe Dry Eye
Arthritis weak joints
Fibromyalgia (note this is not considered to be an autoimmune disorder)
Other Autoimmune Disease (diagnosed)
Sinus problems, dry mouth
Generalised gland swelling and pain with no other cause found so assumed to be
mesh reaction (neck, armpits, groin)
Lichens Schlerosis
Sjogren's Syndrome



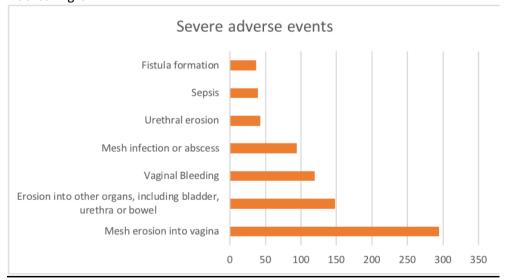
#### 7. Functional e.g. urinary or bowel symptoms

919
798
685
615
599
516
405
294
213
173
165
152
134
126
88
81



#### 8. Skin problems

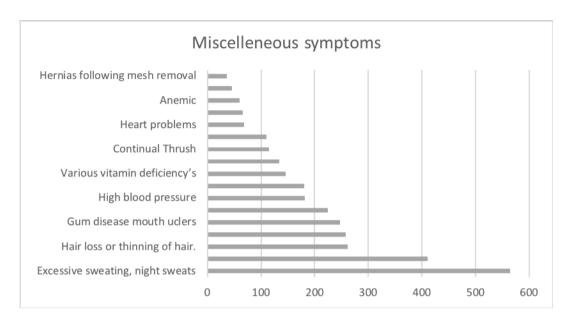
Skin sensitivity, like crawling on skin 273 Unexplained rashes 208 Red or Purple spots like mini blood blisters 107 Rosacea 104 Other new onset skin condition 100 Skin sores in vulva 97 Soreness inside ears 90 **Psoriais** 84 Hives 65 **Shingles** 50 Sores in groin 45



#### 9. Severe adverse events e.g. erosion

Mesh erosion into vagina	294
Erosion into other organs, including bladder, urethra or bowel	148
Vaginal Bleeding	110

Mesh infection or abscess	94	
Urethral erosion	43	
Sepsis	39	
Fistula formation	37	



#### 10. Misc, other

Excessive sweating, night sweats	564
Weight gain	411
Hair loss or thinning of hair.	261
Prolapse return, bladder/bowel/uterus	258
Gum disease mouth ulcers	247
Tinnitus	224
High blood pressure	181
Buzzing in pelvis and other areas of body (like vibrations)	180
Various vitamin deficiency's	146
Difficulty Swallowing	134
Continual Thrush	115
Awareness of tape all the time - feels too tight	110
Heart problems	68
Heavy periods	66
Anaemic	60
Diabetes	46
Hernias following mesh removal	36

# <u>Symptom list, non-categorised, from most to least frequent.</u> <u>Symptoms with under 35 respondents were excluded</u>

Pain on walking	934
Urinary Urgency	919

IBS symptoms – bloating 798 Chronic or recurring hip pain 781 Chronic or recurring leg pain 781 Discomfort during sex 738 Brain Fog 720 Urinary frequency 685 Anxiety 622 Horinary incontinence 615 Constipation 599 Excessive sweating, night sweats 560 Chronic or recurring lower back pain 522 Chronic or recurring buttock pain 524 Repeated Urinary Tract Infections 516 Eatigue and nausea through lack of sleep 507 Inability to have sex due to pain 500 Depression (new onset or worsened since surgery) 883 Nerve damage in groin area 882 Uring legs up feeling heavy up stairs 417 Chronic or recurring pelvic pain 784 Chronic or recurring buttock pain 506 Difficulty emptying bowel 507 Sharp pain between pubic bone and leg 507 Inflammation 508 Sharp pain between pubic bone and leg 507 Burning pain 508 Burning pain 509 Burning 609	Pain on sitting	856
Chronic or recurring hip pain Chronic or recurring leg pain Discomfort during sex 378 Brain Fog 372 Urinary frequency 373 Anxiety 374 Difficulty or recurring lower back pain Chronic or recurring lower back pain Chronic or recurring lower back pain Chronic or recurring pelvic pain or abdominal Chronic or recurring betwic pain or abdominal Spatiague and nausea through lack of sleep Inability to have sex due to pain Depression (new onset or worsened since surgery) Anamage in groin area Numbness in legs and feet Iffiting legs up feeling heavy up stairs Chronic or recurring pelvic pain Weight gain Difficulty emptying bowel Sharp pain between pubic bone and leg Inflammation Sharp pain between pubic bone and leg Inflammation Severe Dry Eye Arthritis weak joints Burning pain Jufficulty urinating Jufficulty urinating Mesh erosion into vagina Skin sensitivity, like crawling on skin Fibromyalgia (note this is not considered to be an autoimmune disorder) Prolapse return, bladder/bowel/uterus Daily headache	Severe fatigue	811
Chronic or recurring leg pain Discomfort during sex 378 Brain Fog 770 Urinary frequency 685 Anxiety Pain during sex 622 Urinary incontinence 615 Constipation 599 Excessive sweating, night sweats 616 Chronic or recurring lower back pain 617 Chronic or recurring pelvic pain or abdominal 618 Chronic or recurring buttock pain 619 Chronic or recurring buttock pain 610 Expeased Urinary Tract Infections 611 Extigue and nausea through lack of sleep 610 Inability to have sex due to pain 610 Depression (new onset or worsened since surgery) 611 May Depression (new onset or worsened since surgery) 612 Mumbness in legs and feet 613 Chronic or recurring pelvic pain 614 Mumbness in legs and feet 615 Chronic or recurring pelvic pain 616 Chronic or recurring pelvic pain 617 Meight gain 618 Mitting legs up feeling heavy up stairs 619 Chronic or recurring pelvic pain 619 Meight gain 610 Mitting legs up feeling heavy betains 610 Mitting legs up feeling heavy betains 611 Mitting legs up feeling heavy and the deplay a	IBS symptoms – bloating	798
Discomfort during sex       738         Brain Fog       720         Urinary frequency       685         Anxiety       629         Pain during sex       622         Urinary incontinence       615         Constipation       599         Excessive sweating, night sweats       540         Chronic or recurring lower back pain       530         Chronic or recurring belvic pain or abdominal       528         Chronic or recurring buttock pain       524         Repeated Urinary Tract Infections       516         Fatigue and nausea through lack of sleep       507         Inability to have sex due to pain       506         Depression (new onset or worsened since surgery)       483         Nerve damage in groin area       482         Numbness in legs and feet       466         lifting legs up feeling heavy up stairs       417         Chronic or recurring pelvic pain       417         Weight gain       41         Difficulty emptying bowel       405         Sharp pain between pubic bone and leg       400         Inflammation       374         Severe Dry Eye       373         Arthritis weak joints       328         Hand pain <t< td=""><td>Chronic or recurring hip pain</td><td>781</td></t<>	Chronic or recurring hip pain	781
Brain Fog Urinary frequency 685 Anxiety 629 Pain during sex 622 Urinary incontinence 615 Constipation 599 Excessive sweating, night sweats 664 Chronic or recurring lower back pain Chronic or recurring pelvic pain or abdominal 675 Expeated Urinary Tract Infections 676 Fatigue and nausea through lack of sleep 107 Inability to have sex due to pain 108 Depression (new onset or worsened since surgery) 108 Nerve damage in groin area 108 Numbness in legs and feet 108 119 119 119 119 119 119 119 119 119 11	Chronic or recurring leg pain	741
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·	Prolapse return, bladder/bowel/uterus	258
Gum disease mouth ulcers 247	Daily headache	248
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Nerve pain on removal area when walk or stand throbs and burns also affects sleeping 241	Nerve pain on removal area when walk or stand throbs and burns also affects sleeping	241
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Mesh problems	
	Tinnitus	
New or worsened faecal incontinence 213	New or worsened faecal incontinence	213
Unexplained rashes 208	Unexplained rashes	208

Unable to sit on hard seats without pain.	208
Had my mesh removed but still in pain due to nerve damage	191
Other Autoimmune Disease (diagnosed)	187
High blood pressure	181
Buzzing in pelvis and other areas of body (like vibrations)	180
Sharp pain in mesh area reaching up e.g. to a high shelf etc	179
Severe back pain, Protacks embedded into S spine.	173
Still wear thick incontinence pads - can't go without them despite op	173
Leg collapses and falls	171
No message to say I need to urinate and then is urgent and painful	165
Migraines	156
Sinus problems dry mouth	156
Pain when bending down	154
Chronic wind, on walking, getting up from sitting down.	152
Erosion into other organs, including bladder, urethra or bowel	148
Various vitamin deficiency's	146
Difficulty driving due to pain in left leg, pain in pubic area & leg when pressing down on	
clutch	144
Has a ping snapping sensation in groin, staggers for a few minutes then can walk	137
Difficulty Swallowing	134
Bladder spasms	134
Blood in urine	126
Vaginal Bleeding	119
Suicide ideation (new onset since surgery)	119
Continual Thrush	115
Awareness of tape all the time - feels too tight	110
Red or Purple spots like mini blood blisters	107
Rosacea	104
Other new onset skin condition	100
skin sores in vulva	97
Mesh infection or abscess	94
Soreness inside ears	90
Generalised gland swelling and pain with no other cause found so assumed to be mesh	
reaction( neck, armpits, groin)	89
Inability to urinate	88
Psoriais	84
Self-catheterise after mesh inserted	81
Heart problems	68
Heavy periods	66
Hives	65
Anaemic	60
Pain on orgasm	56
Shingles	50
Diabetes	46
Sores in groin	45
Lichens Schleroiss	44

Urethral erosion	43
Sjogren's Syndrome	39
Sepsis	39
Fistula formation	37
Hernias following mesh removal	36
Labia nerve damage where instruments went during op	35

**Footnote**: It was not possible to calculate the total number of respondents from the Facebook survey. However, it can be seen that 934 responded to the most common symptom of pan when walking.