



## **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.

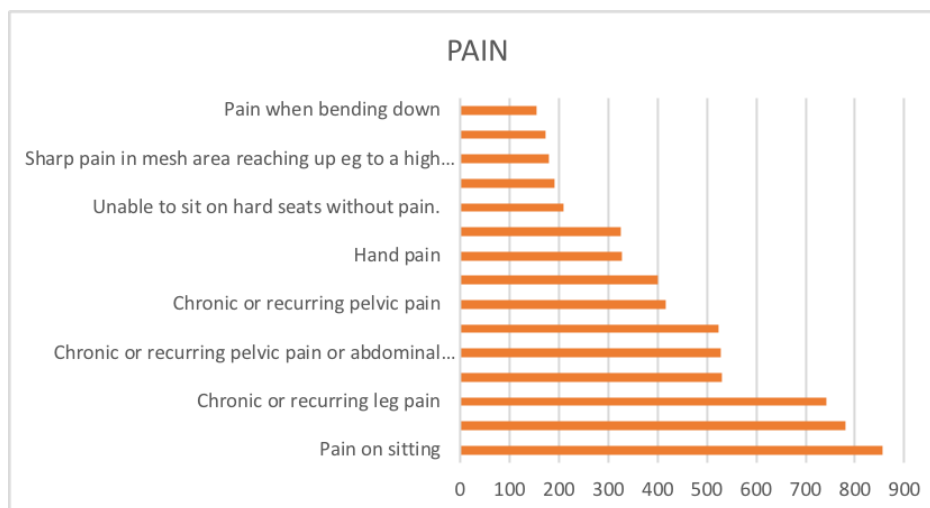
There were almost 300 women who reported mesh slicing into their vagina and 148 who said their mesh had cut into their bladder, urethra or bowel.

### **MOST COMMON SYMPTOMS SUFFERED**

Pain on walking	934
Urinary Urgency	919
Pain on sitting	856

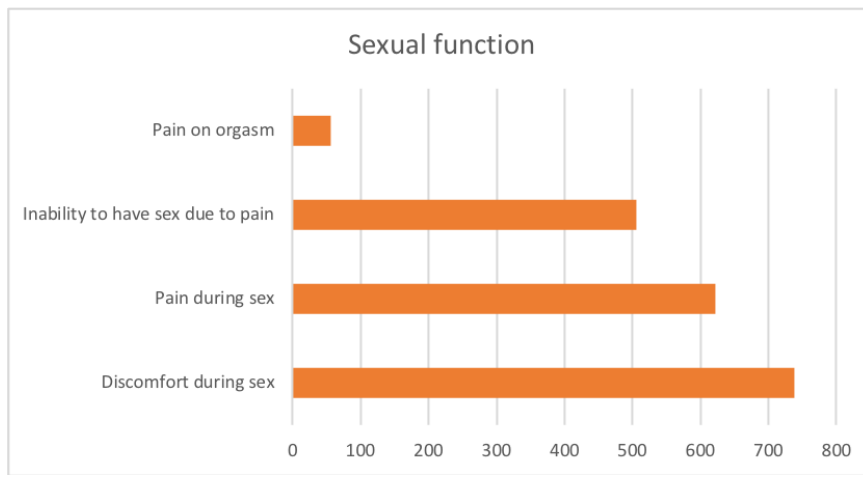
Severe fatigue	811
IBS symptoms – bloating	798
Chronic or recurring hip pain	781
Chronic or recurring leg pain	741
Discomfort during sex	738
Brain Fog	720
Urinary frequency	685
Anxiety	629
Pain during sex	622
Urinary incontinence	615
Constipation	599

## Categories



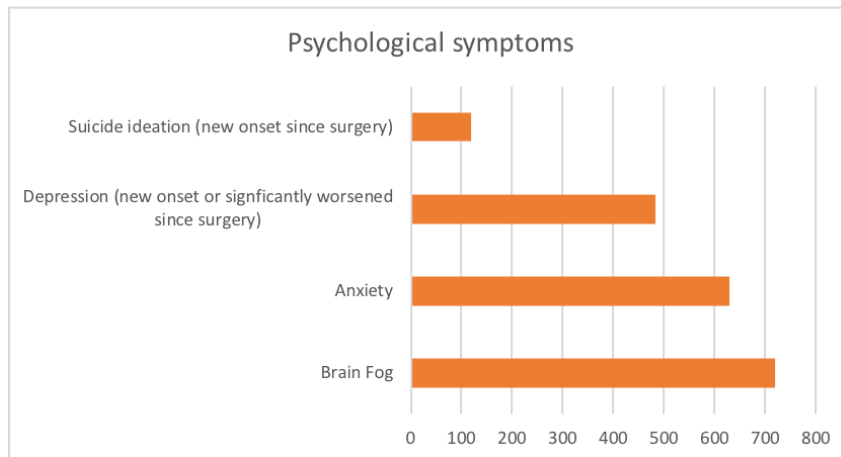
### 1. Pain

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



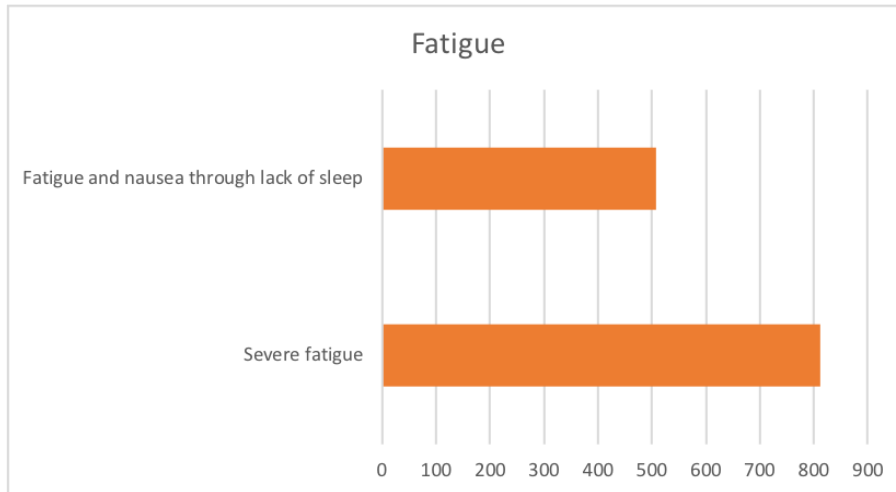
## 2. Sexual function

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

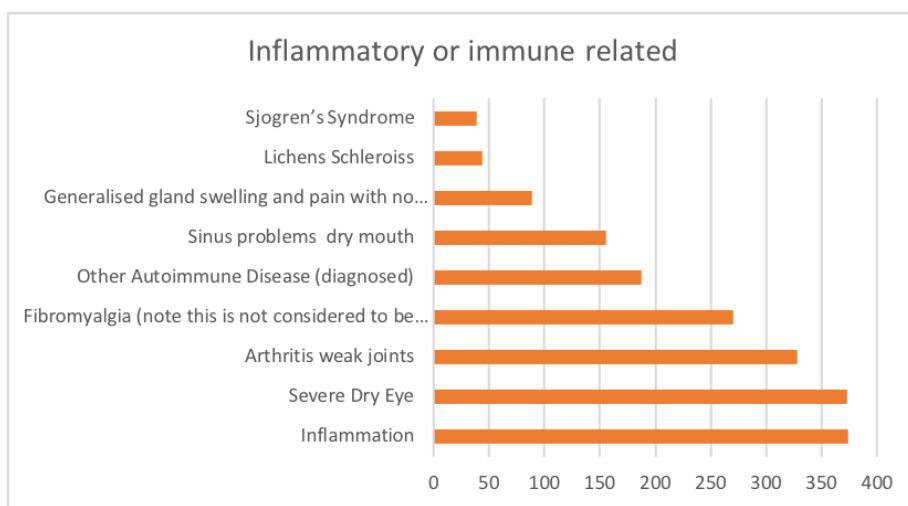


#### 4. Fatigue related

Severe fatigue	811
Fatigue and nausea through lack of sleep	507

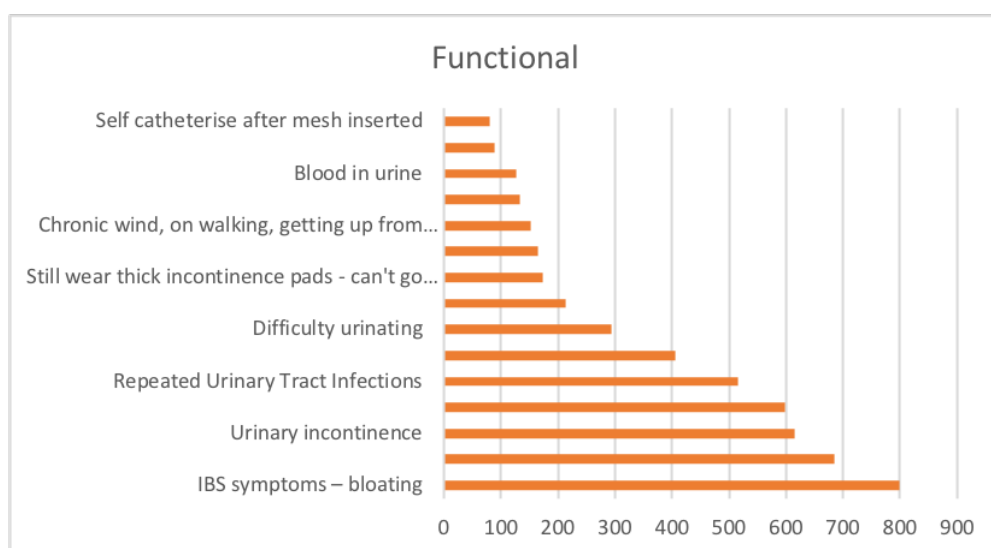
#### 5. Neurological/numbness

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



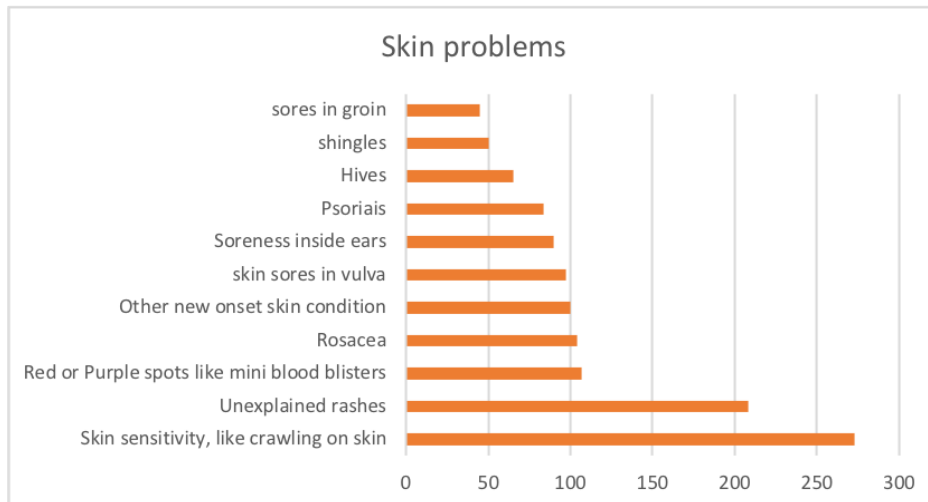
## 6. Inflammatory or immune system related

Inflammation	374
Severe Dry Eye	373
Arthritis weak joints	328
Fibromyalgia (note this is not considered to be an autoimmune disorder)	270
Other Autoimmune Disease (diagnosed)	187
Sinus problems, dry mouth	156
Generalised gland swelling and pain with no other cause found so assumed to be mesh reaction (neck, armpits, groin)	89
Lichens Schlerosis	44
Sjogren's Syndrome	39



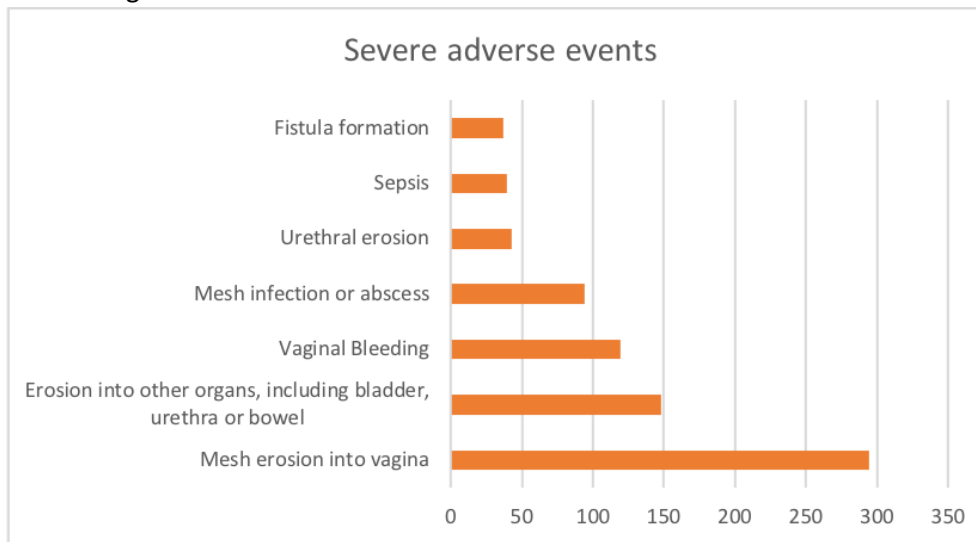
## 7. Functional e.g. urinary or bowel symptoms

Urinary Urgency	919
IBS symptoms – bloating	798
Urinary frequency	685
Urinary incontinence	615
Constipation	599
Repeated Urinary Tract Infections	516
Difficulty emptying bowel	405
Difficulty urinating	294
New or worsened faecal incontinence	213
Still wear thick incontinence pads - can't go without them despite op	173
No message to say I need to urinate and then is urgent and painful	165
Chronic wind, on walking, getting up from sitting down.	152
Bladder spasms	134
Blood in urine	126
Inability to urinate	88
Self-catheterise after mesh inserted	81



## 8. Skin problems

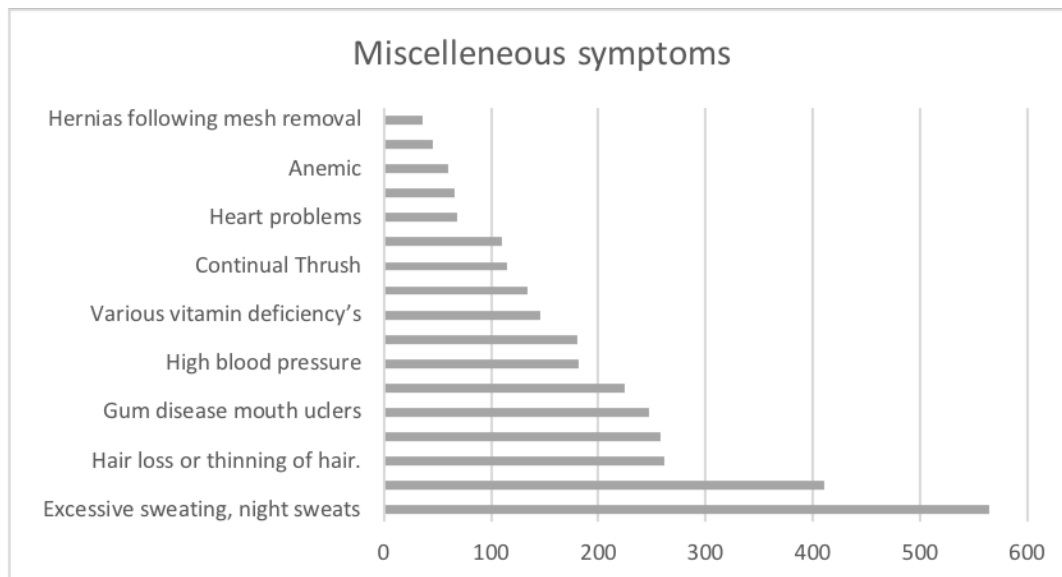
Skin sensitivity, like crawling on skin	273
Unexplained rashes	208
Red or Purple spots like mini blood blisters	107
Rosacea	104
Other new onset skin condition	100
Skin sores in vulva	97
Soreness inside ears	90
Psoriasis	84
Hives	65
Shingles	50
Sores in groin	45



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

Mesh erosion into vagina	294
Erosion into other organs, including bladder, urethra or bowel	148
Vaginal Bleeding	119

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

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

Pain on walking	934
Urinary Urgency	919

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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
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**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 pain when walking.*