

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 5174

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Freedom of Information Act 2000

I am writing in response to your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in relation to hernia repairs using mesh implants.

You asked:

- 1. Can any of your Hospital Trust Surgeons repair Hernias without using Mesh implants? If so, how many of these surgeries are performed per year?*
- 2. Can any of your Hospital Trust Surgeons remove Hernia Mesh without causing complications? If so, how many of these surgeries are performed per year?*
- 3. Do any of your Hospital Trust Surgeons repair without using Mesh Implants in the following areas? Please could you specify which Surgeon specialises in each of the following areas? And if so how many are performed per year?*
- 4. Can any of the Surgeons remove Mesh that is causing complications from the following areas? Again, can you please specify which Surgeon performs this surgery, and how many are performed per year?*

The Trust asked for clarification on the following point: *Do you mean prolapse rather than hernia. As we have not heard of a womb / bladder / vagina hernia and we do not want to give inaccurate information.*

You provided the following clarification: *Yes, Prolapse and or SUI repairs for that section of the request.*

This table is all hernia repairs & removals:

	2016/2017			2016/2017 Total	2017/2018			2017/2018 Total	2018/2019			2018/2019 Total	Total
	Daycase	Elective	Non Elective		Daycase	Elective	Non Elective		Daycase	Elective	Non Elective		
PRIMARY REPAIR OF INGUINAL HERNIA Total	246	101	29	376	204	79	32	315	168	52	29	249	940
REPAIR OF RECURRENT INGUINAL HERNIA Total	23	9	6	38	13	15	7	35	13	7	2	22	95
PRIMARY REPAIR OF FEMORAL HERNIA Total	5	3	17	25	6	1	26	33	5	2	12	19	77
REPAIR OF RECURRENT FEMORAL HERNIA Total	0	2	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
PRIMARY REPAIR OF UMBILICAL HERNIA Total	76	23	36	135	56	16	18	90	37	16	20	73	298
PRIMARY REPAIR OF INCISIONAL HERNIA Total	12	42	18	72	6	38	11	55	9	29	11	49	176
REPAIR OF RECURRENT INCISIONAL HERNIA Total	2	11	2	15	1	8	3	12	1	1	5	7	34
REPAIR OF OTHER HERNIA OF ABDOMINAL WALL Total	26	10	18	54	17	9	13	39	10	3	14	27	120
REPAIR OF RECURRENT UMBILICAL HERNIA Total	2	3	1	6	3	6	1	10	3	1	4	8	24
REPAIR OF RECURRENT OTHER HERNIA OF ABDOMINAL WALL Total	3	1	0	4	1	0	0	1	3	3	0	6	11
	395	205	129	729	307	172	111	590	249	114	97	460	1779
Of the above figures these were the removals of mesh	0	3	1	4	0	1	1	2	0	0	2	2	8

Of the above repairs & removals, the following were done without mesh:

	2016/2017			2016/2017 Total	2017/2018			2017/2018 Total	2018/2019			2018/2019 Total	Total
	Daycase	Elective	Non Elective		Daycase	Elective	Non Elective		Daycase	Elective	Non Elective		
PRIMARY REPAIR OF INGUINAL HERNIA Total	4	0	3	7	0	2	5	7	2	3	5	10	24
REPAIR OF RECURRENT INGUINAL HERNIA Total	0	0	1	1	0	2	1	3	0	0	0	0	4
PRIMARY REPAIR OF FEMORAL HERNIA Total	1	1	12	14	6	0	10	16	3	1	5	9	39
REPAIR OF RECURRENT FEMORAL HERNIA Total	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
PRIMARY REPAIR OF UMBILICAL HERNIA Total	29	8	24	61	23	4	9	36	18	6	9	33	130
PRIMARY REPAIR OF INCISIONAL HERNIA Total	3	4	9	16	2	14	5	21	3	13	6	22	59
REPAIR OF RECURRENT INCISIONAL HERNIA Total	0	3	1	4	1	2	2	5	0	0	4	4	13
REPAIR OF OTHER HERNIA OF ABDOMINAL WALL Total	6	3	11	20	3	2	6	11	5	1	8	14	45
REPAIR OF RECURRENT UMBILICAL HERNIA Total	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	7
REPAIR OF RECURRENT OTHER HERNIA OF ABDOMINAL WALL Total	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
	44	21	61	126	36	27	39	102	32	26	38	96	324
Of the above figures these were the removals of mesh	0	3	1	4	0	1	1	2	0	0	2	2	8

	2016/2017			2016/2017	2017/2018			2017/2018	2018/2019			2018/2019	Total
	Daycase	Elective	Non Elective	Total	Daycase	Elective	Non Elective	Total	Daycase	Elective	Non Elective	Total	
OTHER REPAIR OF PROLAPSE OF VAGINA	0	171	1	172	2	121	1	124	1	137	1	139	435
REPAIR OF VAULT OF VAGINA	0	47	0	47	0	37	1	38	0	22	0	22	107
INTRODUCTION OF SUPPORTING PESSARY INTO VAGINA	6	1	3	10	1	1	1	3	3	1	2	6	19
(NOT DETAILED)	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	2
REPAIR OF PROLAPSE OF VAGINA AND AMPUTATION OF CERVIX U	0	3	0	3	0	2	0	2	0	1	0	1	6
	6	222	4	232	3	162	3	168	4	162	3	169	569

Please note: We are unable to tell whether or not mesh was used in the above procedures. These figures are based on primary procedures between April 2016 and December 2018.

Maidstone & Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust receives a number of requests for details relating to the professional lives of our staff from private individuals and organisations, some of whom are involved in recruitment and marketing. We are aware that approaches from some of these organisations, as a result of any disclosure on our part, may lead to damage and distress to individuals whose roles and responsibilities would not normally be public facing or a level where the expectation would be that this information should be in the public domain. On very rare occasions it might be considered in the public interest to disclose some information but in such cases the views of the individual staff concerned is always sought.

The Trust has therefore decided that in future all such requests will normally be refused using the limitations available under Section 10 and Section 11 of the Data Protection Act 1998.

The information you have requested regarding surgeon details is therefore exempt under Section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.