

Transvaginal Mesh “Flawed on Every Level”

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Fort Lauderdale, FL: Lana Keeton is not suffering in silence. She was implanted with [transvaginal mesh](#) in 2001, a procedure that went horribly wrong and almost killed her. Since that time, Lana has been a patient advocate and instrumental in getting the FDA warnings on synthetic surgical mesh issued in 2008 and 2011.

■ Lana has also appeared as a speaker on the Transvaginal Mesh Panel at Mass Torts Made Perfect (April 2012) in Las Vegas. And she has spent thousands of hours researching surgical mesh. “Despite extensive studies written by experts about the horrific complications of synthetic surgical meshes, transvaginal mesh is still being used,” says Lana. “Commercialization of surgical mesh by multi-billion dollar pharmaceutical giants—such as [AMS](#) and [Johnson & Johnson](#)-- has substituted “surgical mesh kits” for good surgical skills.”

Lana became a patient advocate in 2007, around the same time that she sued Johnson & Johnsons’ Ethicon unit. (Lana says she lost the case based on a procedural error: she didn’t name her doctors as non-retained expert witnesses and without that she was unable to prove causation in federal court.)

“I spent so much time working on my transvaginal mesh lawsuit,” Lana says. “That is when I found so many people online who had transvaginal mesh injuries. I helped them understand their complications and helped them find doctors because I had seen more than 10 doctors myself.

“I also wanted to get transvaginal mesh off the market, but how? I started an online health group called Medical Mesh, which had more than 8,000 posts and 400 people joined my database. I found a common denominator—many of these people had migraines and allergies. I started looking at auto-immune disease and discovered a chemical in the mesh. I discovered that this mesh is flawed on every level—physical, chemical, and how it is processed. A lot of manufacturing flaws are inherent and I know that from working in the steel industry.”

As a steel broker with 30 years experience and extensive knowledge of the physical and chemical properties of steel, Lana has researched the physical and chemical properties of the commercial uses of polypropylene and other polymers. Because of her background, she can look at these foreign body polymers from a manufacturing perspective and see the inherent defects.

“Petroleum based synthetic surgical meshes do not belong in the human body,” says Lana. “Transvaginal meshes are foreign bodies and the body tries to expel this

foreign body in any way that it can. The human body cannot expel synthetic surgical mesh. Medical device manufacturers know this, yet use of synthetic surgical mesh is a fatally flawed concept which remains unchallenged. Hernias, incontinence and pelvic organ prolapse are conditions caused by torn or weakened tissue. These are not diseases, only conditions. Implanting a foreign body polymer, i.e., synthetic transvaginal mesh, does not treat causation.”

Lana has this message for transvaginal mesh attorneys: “Advocacy is not enough. I wish all of you success as you go forward seeking justice for your clients. While you are seeking justice, I am working at the FDA and in Congress as a patient advocate to get synthetic surgical mesh off the market. “

Transvaginal Mesh Lawsuits lead to TVM recalls

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On the heels of more than one thousand transvaginal mesh lawsuits filed by women who claim the mesh has caused injury, Johnson & Johnson has stopped selling four of its transvaginal mesh products. In July 2012 J&J recalled the following:

- Gynecare Prolift Kit
- Gynecare Prolift + M Kit
- Gynecare TVT Secure
- Gynecare Prosima Pelvic Floor Repair System Kit

Also in July, shortly after a California couple was awarded \$5.5 million in their *transvaginal mesh lawsuit*, C.R. Bard Medical stopped selling its *Avaulta mesh*.

The FDA has ordered Ethicon/Gynecare, a subsidiary of Johnson & Johnson, and Bard to perform more clinical trials and testing before their products can be marketed again.

Source:

<http://www.lawyersandsettlements.com/articles/transvaginal-mesh-tvt-sling/interview-tvt-sling-transvaginal-mesh-11-18166.html>