

Date: 10th August 2011

My story on the Tran-Obturator Sling (TOT)

I had my TOT fitted in May 2011 as a result of mild stress incontinence caused by childbirth. Stupidly, I didn't do any research until the night before the operation. After just a little bit of research, I decided on the morning of the operation not to go through with the TOT but the senior registrar (a woman) and a nurse persuaded me that my surgeon was trustworthy and experienced and my stress incontinence would get worse over time so should go through with it. Of course, it was my decision in the end and has turned out to be my biggest mistake in life so far.

Leaving the hospital that evening after my operation, I was in a lot of pain with my leg but assumed that would heal. Within a few days, I was shocked at my trembling legs and the stabbing pains in my thighs. My consultant's secretary told me he was on extended leave so I would have to speak to the ward staff. The nurse I spoke to said they would only see me if I was having trouble voiding.

A visit to my GP a few days later resulted in a prescription for two different antibiotics and the assurance from my female doctor that her friends who had had vaginal mesh fitted were delighted with the result. A few days later, my legs were like blocks of ice, I had sickness and bodily shakes so insisted a hospital doctor saw me. The next day I was referred to a consultant who deals with "problem cases " like mine for my region of the country. He prescribed strong antibiotics for my ecoli and assured me I would be fine in two weeks. He warned me against removing it as it was a dangerous operation and I could be worse after the removal than before.

Needless to say, I was no better two weeks after the operation so went privately to see a recommended surgeon from the website "TVT Messed Up Mesh". He was lovely but confirmed how dangerous it is to remove TOTs and he told me he would not advise his own wife to have it removed and refused to take it out. In desperation, having read about the success of two surgeons in removing TVTs at an Oxford Hospital, I travelled to Oxford to see them, six weeks after my TOT had been fitted. Sadly, they said they had no experience of removing TOTs so could not help me.

Thanks to Lorraine and "TVT Messed Up Mesh" I found "meshie" friends who understood my situation and It was a real lifeline for me. I cannot speak too highly of Lorraine who spoke to me willingly, several times on the phone at length when I needed help and advice. She is a tower of strength and full of compassion.

Looking for a radical solution, I contacted two famous surgeons in the USA several times but heard nothing back, possibly because TOTs are so hard to remove or because they are overwhelmed with problem cases. In the meantime, I developed insomnia due to trembling legs, kidney and back pain and had to resort to sleeping tablets as a temporary measure to function. A trip on a boat was very uncomfortable because it amplified the trembling in my legs.

In the meantime, I have had numerous trips to the Accident and Emergency Department at my local hospital but I have given up now because they do not know what to do with me. The same is true of my local GP's surgery with many of the doctors (I have seen most of them) admitting they are unfamiliar with these devices. The only reason to go now is for medication or tests.

To date, I am still under my consultant who has organised a labial scan. This did not show up anything unusual but my consultant acknowledged that pain will not show up on a scan. He is considering what to do with me now as I am clearly not a straightforward case. Three months after my TOT was fitted, I am on yet more antibiotics for pelvic pain but these make no difference. I have kidney and back pain, thigh and groin pain, insomnia, shaking legs, cramps, nerve tingling, coldness all over my body and exhaustion. I have never felt well since the operation but feel I am trapped with no one who is willing and experienced enough to remove my TOT mesh.

Kate – UK

Name and Address submitted for Publication

Urgent Appeal

Where are the surgeons in the UK to help all those ladies who are experiencing severe health problems with the Trans-Obturator Sling (TOT) medical device?

Their surgeons have put this medical device in them and refuse and admit they can't take it out!

Direct link to contact us:

<https://secure.hosts.co.uk/~tyt-messed-up-mesh.org.uk/contact-tyt.html>