

Trans-vaginal tape (TVT) surgery health risks: Factsheet for union members

Thompsons Solicitors urges any union member suffering pain after undergoing trans-vaginal tape (TVT) or vaginal mesh surgery to seek legal advice, amid reports that hundreds of women have experienced health problems as a result of the procedure.

What is surgical mesh?

Women, particularly post pregnancy or after a hysterectomy, can suffer from incontinence as the pelvic floor deteriorates and the involuntary release of urine during activities such as laughing or coughing can become a problem.

Surgical mesh or trans-vaginal tape is often inserted under the urethra to keep it in position and prevent this from happening.

While TVT surgery is widely considered as routine, it can cause a number of avoidable complications which are considered as surgical errors and could therefore be considered as clinical negligence.

What are the symptoms?

A number of symptoms have been identified which relate to TVT mesh implants, including:

- Chronic pain
- The inability to walk
- Bleeding and infection
- The reversal of surgery
- Problems going to the loo
- Incontinence
- Vaginal scarring
- Abdominal and pelvic pain
- Mesh erosion or protrusion

What is the current medical view?

In October of 2016, the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) published the results of its assessment into the benefits and risks of vaginal mesh implants and concluded that 'the benefit outweighs the risk'.

However, hundreds of women have complained the above symptoms as a result of TVT.

What should union members do if they think they are affected?

Any [union member](#) who has received the TVT mesh implant and is suffering from pain, discomfort or complications should consult their GP immediately.

If the injury has occurred within the last three years, members should also contact their union's legal service to find out if they have a [medical negligence](#) claim against either their health provider or the product manufacturer.