

PE1517/CCCC

Kylie Stott submission of 27 September 2017

Hello, my name is Kylie and I am 40 years old.

Before this procedure, I considered myself to be a good mother, a loving partner and passionate primary school teacher. If I'd known a piece of plastic would rob me of my identity, crush my spirit, destroy my physical and sexual activity I would have chosen not to have surgery, and continued living with Stress Urinary Incontinence.

Some of the side effects I have experienced include frequent catheterisations; acute groin pain; frequent urinary tract infections to the extent that I am now resistant to two forms of antibiotics; pain during sex with the inability to have an orgasm. The internal trauma subsequently affects my urethra and bladder function. This procedure has impeded my ability to, exercise which was integral to my day-to-day wellbeing. I can no longer run or cycle without distressing pain. I suffer from depression and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder as I have no trust in medical practitioners. I discovered 2 years post procedure my surgeon had not in fact performed the operation as promised – instead a trainee doctor. I feel isolated and alone. I feel angry and violated and live in fear not knowing which way to turn. My self-esteem is low; I am consumed with negative thoughts and require ongoing counselling.

I was not made aware of the potential complications; instead I was assured the insertion of a 'mid urethral sling' was a 'simple day-surgery procedure with a very low complication rate'. Had I been aware of the full extent of potential complications now listed on the TGA website, I would not have risked surgery. My surgeon insisted it was safe and was not the same product causing complications in women overseas.

I was not told this implant was permanent and could not be removed easily if need be. I was informed there was a 3 week post-op window for removal before the 'flesh gelled with the sling,' it was clear something was wrong directly after the procedure; it is now clear there was nobody who could remove the tape at the time, including my surgeon. Why was an internal examination NEVER performed at any of my post-op consultations particularly when I was experiencing extreme discomfort?

Earlier this year, a gynaecologist, indicated he could remove the mesh, albeit with limited experience in such a procedure. A second opinion with a 4D ultrasound proved it is placed

incorrectly and pressing into my vaginal wall.

I am emotionally and physically crippled, I struggle to cope with the fear of the unknown. The intimacy in my relationship has decreased; I feel sexually inadequate and have pushed away friends due to my lack of self-worth and inability to see myself as anything other than a burden when times are tough.

My condition now defines me. I survive as the victim of what I consider gross medical negligence from many parties. What does the future hold for myself and the many other women worldwide who are suffering?