

# Project scope: hernia mesh

27 November 2020

## Research question

What is the clinical effectiveness, safety and cost effectiveness of using surgical mesh for elective repair of hernia compared with repair without surgical mesh (non-mesh/suture repair) in women?

## Inclusion criteria

The selection of studies for inclusion in the literature review element of the project will be based on the following criteria:

<b>Population</b>	Women (adults) with one of the following types of hernia: incisional, abdominal, groin (femoral or inguinal), ventral, umbilical
<b>Intervention</b>	Open or laparoscopic hernia repair using surgical mesh
<b>Comparator</b>	Open or laparoscopic hernia repair without using surgical mesh e.g. suture repair techniques Non-operative hernia management
<b>Outcomes</b>	Hernia repair (procedure success rate) Hernia recurrence Quality of life Post-operative pain Adverse events Patient experiences, preferences, views Cost-effectiveness
<b>Limits</b> (same as used on previous hernia project)	English language Published 2010-2020 Any study design (systematic reviews/meta-analyses preferred if available)

## Planned activities

SHTG have agreed on the following activities to support the development of recommendations on hernia mesh repair in women:

- 1) A systematic review of the published literature on hernia repair using mesh compared with non-mesh hernia repair in adult women. This will include consideration of evidence on clinical effectiveness, safety, cost effectiveness, and patient experiences, if available.
- 2) A patient engagement exercise to explore women's experiences and views in relation to the repair of hernias using surgical mesh. This engagement exercise will run concurrently with the evidence review process (point 1 above). Scottish government colleagues will be involved in proposing questions they would like included in the survey and in identifying groups of women to circulate the survey to as part of the engagement exercise.
- 3) Development of recommendations for practice based on expert consensus using an adapted Delphi process. This element of the project will by necessity occur after stages 1 and 2 above, so that the expert consensus can be based on expert opinion, the evidence base (published literature), and patient views/experiences from the engagement exercise.

## End products

At the end of the project SHTG will publish:

- SHTG Recommendations – a systematic literature review with key points, consensus-based recommendations, and a recommendation from SHTG Council based on the consensus work.
- Patient engagement exercise report – a summary of the responses to the patient engagement exercise that has been used to inform the recommendations.

## Timescales (approximate)

Work on the project is estimated to begin in January 2021 and will aim to present the review, engagement exercise and consensus recommendations to the SHTG Council in July 2021.