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Request for Information Reference: 05.18.01

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Email only

1<sup>st</sup> June 2018

## Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information received on 1 May 2018 in relation to the County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (Trust). We are dealing with your request under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You requested information regarding mesh implant operations. Specifically you asked for:

***Please can I request the following information:***

***1. How many of any type of vaginal mesh implant operations has the Trust has performed in each of the following years: 2016, 2017, 2018 (in financial or calendar years).***

2016 - 56 (42 x TVT; 14 x TOT)  
2017 - 45 (36 x TVT; 9 x TOT)  
2018 - 11 (11 x TVT)

*Note: The Trust has **not** performed any vaginal mesh implants for prolapse in 2016/2017/2018.*

***2. How many removals of any type of vaginal mesh implant operations has the Trust performed in each of the following years: 2016, 2017, 2018 (in financial or calendar years).***

Answer: We have not removed any mesh implants in 2016/2017/2018.

Note: We have carried out three partial excisions of small vaginal mesh erosions in this three year period.

**3. Has the Trust updated its vaginal mesh procedures or guidance in the last 18 months? If so, please could you provide this information?**

Answer: Our procedures and the guidance we follow are outlined below.

We have a CDDFT Urogynaecology MDT, which started in 2015. This follows the recommendations of the British Society of Urogynaecology (BSUG), which advises that all patients undergoing surgical correction of prolapse or an anti-incontinence procedure are discussed in a multi-disciplinary meeting.

We discuss the full range of surgical treatment options with those patients requesting surgical correction of stress incontinence (i.e. TVT; TOT; Burch Colposuspension, Urethral bulking agent; Fascial sling). Patients are referred on to regional tertiary centres if they opt for a procedure that is not offered locally.

All patients are given the BSUG document '*Synthetic Vaginal Mesh Tape Procedure for the Surgical Treatment of Stress Urinary Incontinence in Women*' to take away and read prior to being listed for a mid-urethral tape procedure.

All patients listed for a mid-urethral tape (TVT or TOT) are discussed at the local Urogynaecology MDT, which takes place fortnightly, for consensus agreement that this is an appropriate operation to perform in that patient.

All patients listed for a mid-urethral tape are consented in clinic prior to surgery, and not on the day of surgery.

Nobody in the Trust is offering or performing vaginal mesh implants for prolapse repair. Patients with complex prolapse problems (e.g. multiple previous surgeries, fertility preserving surgery, previous vaginal mesh prolapse repairs, etc.) are referred on to one of the regional tertiary centres (RVI or JCUH).

**4. How many of any type of hernia mesh implant operations has the Trust has performed in each of the following years: 2016, 2017, 2018 (in financial or calendar years).**

Answer: (all procedures in a primary position)

2015-16 = 741

2016-17 = 719

2017-18 = 658

**5. How many removals of any type of hernia mesh implant operations has the Trust performed in each of the following years: 2016, 2017, 2018 (in financial or calendar years).**

Answer: (all procedures in a primary position)

2015-16 = 2

2016-17 = 5

2017-18 = 0

**6. Has the Trust updated its hernia mesh procedures or guidance in the last 18 months? If so, please could you provide this information?**

Answer: No

In line with the Information Commissioner's directive on the disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 your request will form part of our disclosure log. Therefore, a version of our response which will protect your anonymity will be posted on the County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust website.

If you have any queries or wish to discuss the information supplied, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above telephone number or at the above address.

If you are unhappy with the way your request for information has been handled, you can request a review by writing to:

The Chief Executive  
County Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust  
Darlington Memorial Hospital  
Hollyhurst Road  
Darlington  
DL3 6HX

If, you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Website: [www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk).

There is no charge for making an appeal.

Yours sincerely

**Joanna Tyrrell**  
**Freedom of Information Officer**