



Surgical Pelvic Mesh FAQ



Free Case Review

Lieff Cabraser represents persons across America injured by surgical pelvic mesh. To contact an experienced injury attorney for a free case evaluation, please call us toll-free at **1-800-541-7358** and ask to speak to attorney Sarah London or visit www.lieffcabraser.com/pelvicmesh.

Frequently Asked Questions about Surgical Pelvic Mesh

Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein, LLP has successfully represented thousands of persons across America in individual personal injury lawsuits, including patients who received faulty medical devices. With offices located in San Francisco, New York, Nashville, and Seattle, we bring the substantial legal and financial resources of a national law firm that are necessary for individuals to obtain justice from medical device manufacturers and other large corporations.

What is transvaginal mesh?

Transvaginal mesh is a medical device used to repair pelvic organ prolapse (POP) and to treat stress urinary incontinence (SUI). These medical devices are commonly referred to as pelvic or vaginal mesh, tape, hammock, or bladder sling products.

What are some of the negative effects of transvaginal mesh?

- Chronic vaginal drainage
- Erosion of the vaginal tissue
- Feeling as though something is protruding from the vagina
- Lower back pain
- Mesh trim or removal in doctor's office
- One or more surgeries to repair or remove mesh
- Pain during intercourse

- Perforations of the bowel, bladder or blood vessels
- Pressure or feeling of "fullness" in the lower abdomen
- Urinary problems
- Vaginal bleeding
- Vaginal infections
- Vaginal pain not related to intercourse
- Vaginal scarring

In many cases, the mesh does not even work. Some women complain that the urinary incontinence they suffer now as a result of a failed mesh surgery is worse than they ever suffered before they had the surgical mesh implanted.

Are transvaginal mesh products widely used?

Yes. Each year tens of thousands of women in the United States undergo



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Newsletter from the national law firm of LIEFF CABRASER HEIMANN & BERNSTEIN, LLP

“All attorneys and staff working on these cases are female.”

surgery to repair POP or treat SUI and are implanted with mesh products. As of 2010, approximately 300,000 women underwent surgery using mesh.

Have many women reported injuries due to pelvic mesh?

Between 2005 and 2010, nearly 4,000 injuries were reported to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in connection with transvaginal/pelvic mesh devices. The injury reports have continued to mount as more and more women have required surgery to revise or remove the mesh, or otherwise had to undergo treatment to deal with complications.

Has the FDA weighed in on the adverse effects of pelvic mesh?

Yes. In July 2011, the FDA issued a safety alert stating that serious complications associated with surgical mesh for the repair of POP are not rare. The FDA

reported that “it is not clear” that the use of surgical pelvic mesh to repair POP is more effective than traditional procedures that do not use surgical pelvic mesh. In September 2011, an FDA advisory panel recommended that mesh for POP be reclassified from a “moderate risk” to a “high-risk” medical device. Then, in January 2012, the FDA ordered Johnson & Johnson, C.R. Bard, Boston Scientific, and 30 other mesh manufacturers to conduct

new studies on the safety and effectiveness of pelvic mesh when used to treat POP and SUI. The FDA has never approved transvaginal mesh as safe and effective.

Have there been any recalls of mesh products?

Yes. In September 2011, the FDA issued a recall of certain transvaginal mesh devices. In June 2012, Ethicon, a unit of Johnson & Johnson, announced that it was taking off the market several Gynecare mesh devices.

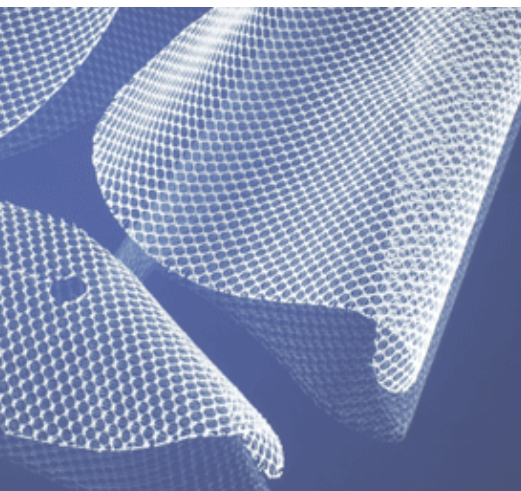
Why are manufacturers legally responsible for injuries suffered by women?

Patients and doctors rely on the manufacturers to adequately test their products, design them safely, and warn about risks and dangers. When a manufacturer puts a defective product on the market and does not warn patients and doctors, the manufacturer is legally responsible for injuries caused by that product.

Lawsuits allege that mesh manufacturers placed defective and dangerous products onto the market that can cause significant and potentially life-altering injuries, without adequately warning doctors or their patients about the risks. If these allegations are true, then the manufacturers can be responsible for the injuries caused by their mesh.

What is the status of the litigation against the manufacturers?

As of early 2015, an estimated 70,000 women had filed lawsuits against mesh manufacturers after suffering serious injuries from the products. Cases are pending against multiple mesh manufacturers in West Virginia, New Jersey, and Massachusetts. There have



been several recent trial victories in favor of women who have suffered from mesh injuries. While these verdicts have not yet been through the appeals process, they certainly are promising. Now we know that when jurors hear the story of what these companies have done and how women have been hurt, they are willing to administer justice. Trials are set to continue throughout the fall and into next year against several manufacturers. Some manufacturers, such as American Medical Systems and Coloplast, have announced an intention to try and settle cases against them, and negotiations are ongoing.

I believe I suffered an injury due to pelvic mesh. How quickly must I hire an attorney?

If you or a loved one were just injured, you should not feel pressured to make an immediate decision about hiring an attorney. Focusing on restoring your health should take precedence over liability issues at this difficult time. However, keep in mind that each state imposes a deadline for filing lawsuits. This deadline is known as the statute of limitations, which in certain states is one year from the date of the injury.

Will I have to pay a fee for your review of my case?

No. We do not charge a fee to review your case. If we decide to represent you and you wish to retain Lieff Cabraser as your law firm, we will discuss our contingency fees (calculated as a percentage of the recovery we obtain) and then provide a written contract to be agreed upon.

What are my legal rights after an injury?

In most states, an injured person may file a case for negligence, failure to warn of known dangers, design defects, and other legal claims for compensation. Husbands of women injured by mesh may also have their own "loss of consortium" claims if the woman's injuries have harmed the relationship, and in some cases may have their own direct injury claims.

How long will a lawsuit take?

We cannot give any guarantees about when your case will be resolved. First, we must undertake a thorough investigation of the facts of your case. In some instances, a case will settle to our client's satisfaction shortly after it is filed, whereas in others it may take several years.

Rest assured, Lieff Cabraser works swiftly and efficiently to obtain the maximum compensation for our clients and to bring each case to a successful conclusion. We do not charge our clients hourly fees and earn no compensation for ourselves until you receive your recovery.

How do I select an attorney to represent me?

You should seek an attorney who has substantial experience in successfully handling similar cases. It is important to not only verify the reputation and experience of the law firm as a whole, but to be sure that your case will be handled by individuals with appropriate experience. In suits involving dangerous medical devices, a case can be expensive to litigate and typically requires the hiring of

Our Promise to You

- Our injury lawyers have successfully represented thousands of clients across America in personal injury cases involving defective medical devices. We provide each client with high-level individualized representation.
- There is no charge or obligation for our review of your injury lawsuit.
- We have retained product safety and medical experts nationwide to assist our clients with their claims.
- In addition to a team of experienced lawyers, we work with a team of dedicated nurses, researchers, legal assistants, and case clerks to assist our attorneys in the investigation and prosecution of each case. Our firm has five full-time nurses, including ones with decades of experience working with patients.

Contact a Pelvic Mesh Personal Injury Attorney

If you or a loved one have been injured by surgical mesh please visit us at:

www.lieffcabraser.com/pelvicmesh or call us toll-free at 1-800-541-7358 and ask to speak to attorney Sarah London. Our personal injury attorneys and legal nurse consultants will promptly review your case for no charge and with no obligation on your part. All attorneys and staff working on these cases are female.

**Lieff
Cabraser
Heimann &
Bernstein**
Attorneys at Law

experts to support your case. You should choose a law firm with substantial financial resources to conduct the case through trial and appeal, if necessary.

What recovery will I receive?

In most jurisdictions, if you suffered a personal injury and the defendant is found liable, the defendant is responsible for paying for your medical care, both past and expected, your past and future lost earnings, and an amount to compensate you for pain and suffering. Your spouse also might be entitled to an award if he or she has a loss of consortium claim. If the conduct that caused the injury was egregious, you may also be entitled to an award of punitive damages in certain states.

How will you handle my case?

As our client, you possess the direction and control over the case. For example, if a manufacturer were to make an offer to settle your case, we will promptly inform you. We will advise whether or not you should accept the offer based on the law and facts of your case. The decision, however, will be yours alone to make.

If you agree to retain our firm, we will prosecute your case as a personal injury lawsuit. It will not be a class action. We will keep you regularly informed as to the status of your case. Our attorneys work as a team, sharing evidence and following a

strategic plan for the litigation. In addition, we have multiple nurses, legal assistants, scientific analysts, and case clerks on staff to assist our attorneys, helping to gather the evidence necessary to prove your case and for you to obtain the full compensation you are entitled to under the law. All attorneys and staff working on these cases are female.

Why don't I just contact the manufacturer and try to work out a settlement with the company?

It is usually inadvisable to try to resolve a serious injury case on your own. An injury may involve multiple parties and questions concerning what happened, who was legally responsible, and how the matter should be resolved. At Lieff Cabraser, our attorneys are trained and have the expertise to evaluate your case and advise you of your rights. Without these experts, you may never know the true value of your case or be able to gather the evidence to show the manufacturers' alleged misconduct.

It is important to understand that corporations and their insurers employ the services of expert lawyers that seek to avoid responsibility, or at least to minimize the payments that will be made to the victims and families. In contrast, as your attorneys, it is our duty and our job to identify all responsible parties, bring a legal action on your behalf to maximize the compensation available under the law, and obtain justice for you.

Disclaimer: This document is not intended to provide medical advice. Any questions specific to your health should be posed to your physician. The hiring of an attorney is an important decision that should not be based solely upon promotional materials. Before you decide to retain us, feel free to ask us any questions you may have concerning our qualifications and experience. Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome.