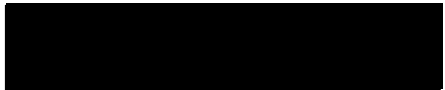




Hospital Services

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23 May 2019



Dear 

Re: Official Information Act request – surgical mesh procedures

Thank you for your Official Information Act request, received via the Ministry of Health on 8 May 2019, seeking the following from Waitematā District Health Board (DHB):

- *How many surgical mesh procedures have been undertaken using the Trans Obturator System mesh tape (TVT-0) made by Johnson and Johnson Medical/-Ethicon from the period 1st Jan 2009 to 1st Jan 2019?*
- *Please confirm the brand names of all other Trans obturator surgical mesh devices that have been used in surgical procedures for the period 1st Jan 2009 to 1st April 2019. How many surgical procedures in total have been undertaken using these Trans Obturator devices from the period 1st Jan 2009 to 1st Jan 2019?*

At present, Waitematā DHB is working on the development of a new system capable of recording the number of surgeries undertaken by surgical device brand. Waitematā DHB is currently unable to capture this level of detail and it is our understanding that other DHBs also do not have such capability at this point in time.

The current system is reliant on the individual brand name of the device being manually recorded and the surgical procedure coded accordingly. Given this, we are unable to provide reliable information on the number of surgical mesh procedures that have been completed by device type during the time period you have requested.

In regards to the brand names of all other transobturator surgical mesh devices that have been used in surgical procedures, the devices used by Waitematā DHB are detailed in the table below.

Brand Name	Period used
Monarc System Obex Medical Ltd	Prior to 2013
AMI	2013 – 2017
Advantage Fit™ Transvaginal Mid-Urethral Sling System (Boston Scientific)	2005 onwards
Suprapubic arch (SPARC) sling system	2005 onwards

As highlighted above, information on the number of procedures by device is unable to be provided.

Waitematā DHB is currently in the process of developing a system that will enable tracking of surgical implants by brand, implant identification code, LOT number and use-by date. Work on this system is ongoing; an implementation date has not been confirmed.

I trust that this information meets your requirements. Waitematā DHB, like other agencies across the state sector, supports the open disclosure of information to assist the public's understanding of how we are delivering publicly-funded healthcare.

This includes the proactive publication of anonymised Official Information Act responses on our website from 10 working days after they have been released.

If you feel that there are good reasons why your response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider this.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cath', written in a cursive style.

Cath Cronin
Director Hospital Services
Waitematā District Health Board