Effectiveness of Mesh Compared With Nonmesh Sling Surgery in Medicare Beneficiaries

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1. Review the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) notification and its recommendations regarding what women should be informed of when agreeing to undergo surgery using mesh. What elements does the FDA recommend should be included when women are counseled? How does this compare with your current counseling practices? How does it differ?

2. There have been many studies, including randomized trials, which have reported on the safety and efficacy of midurethral sling procedures. What additional perspective does a large retrospective review add to the literature? Why does a randomized trial not always capture how well a procedure performs in general practice?

3. Women who had undergone a prolapse procedure within 30 days were excluded from this study. Why were these women excluded?

4. The authors limited this study to procedures performed at either outpatient ambulatory care centers or hospital based ambulatory care centers. In your practice, in which setting (free standing ambulatory surgery center, hospital based ambulatory surgery center, or inpatient) are sling surgeries performed? Discuss the differences between the three and the appropriateness of which gynecologic procedures in your practice could be performed in these settings.

5. The authors report that 45–50% of the women who underwent sling surgery had a cystoscopy performed. Discuss how your practice assesses for intraoperative injury at the time of sling surgery. What are the benefits of cystoscopy at the time of sling surgery?

6. Discuss what you think of the complication rate found in this study. What complication rate do you discuss with patients consenting for sling surgery? How do they differ?

7. Many women are concerned about the placement of mesh for pelvic reconstructive surgery given the FDA notifications. Does this article support the use of mesh for sling surgery? Why or why not?

8. Retrospective reviews are subject to bias. Which biases did the authors anticipate and how did they address them? Which biases, if any, did they fail to address?