

## An Update on Recent Announcements from Australia and New Zealand

The authorities in both Australia and New Zealand have recently decided to stop the use of single incision mini slings (mesh) for treatment of stress urinary incontinence and all types of mesh for treatment of prolapse in their usual “clinical practice”.

A statement on 17th January 2018 on the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) website of the Australian Government noted that they had taken this decision due to a lack of available scientific evidence on the risks and long term outcomes of using single incision mini slings in treatment of stress urinary incontinence in women.

Similarly on 31st January 2018 the New Zealand Ministry of Health issued safety information that the single incision mini-sling used to treat stress urinary incontinence is no longer available to use in clinical practice in New Zealand.

The actions taken in both countries (New Zealand and Australia) will affect their “standard clinical care” outside research and are based on lack of adequate scientific evidence. This new position is similar to the standard clinical practice in the UK as per National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) recommendations which states that this procedure (mini-sling for treatment of stress urinary incontinence) should only be used in clinical practice when there are special arrangements in place for clinical governance, consent, and audit or when being used within research.

NICE then states “NICE encourages further research into single-incision slings for stress urinary incontinence in women and may update the guidance on publication of further evidence. Studies should include details of patient selection, and should measure long-term outcomes including effects on quality of life and other patient-reported outcomes”.

The SIMS study is expected to add to the scientific evidence on the use of mesh slings in the treatment of stress urinary incontinence in women.

If you would like to read the reports from the Australian and New Zealand government and NICE websites please follow the links below.

Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) website of the Australian Government - <https://www.tga.gov.au/alert/tga-actions-after-review-urogynaecological-surgical-mesh-implants>

New Zealand Ministry of Health - <http://www.medsafe.govt.nz/hot/alerts/UrogynaecologicaSurgicalMeshImplants.asp>

NICE guidance on Single-incision short sling mesh insertion for stress urinary incontinence in women - <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ipg566>