

Policy for the use of Biological Mesh

Category: Not Routinely Commissioned

Surgical mesh

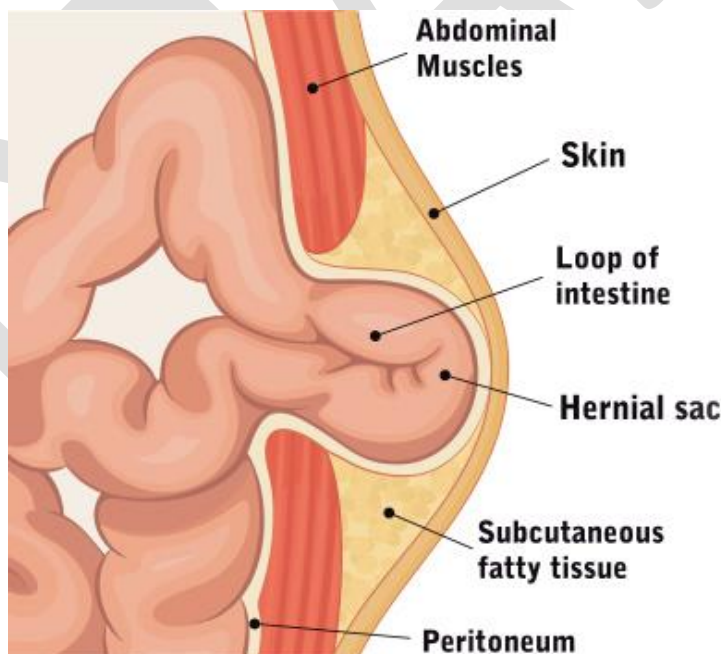
Mesh is a screen like material used during an operation to provide extra support to weak or damaged tissue or bone. There are two types of surgical mesh:

1. Standard Surgical Synthetic Mesh made from synthetic or manmade materials which will or will not absorb in the body.
2. Biological Mesh is made from animal or human tissues.

Surgical mesh is most commonly used to repair different types of hernias.

Hernia

A hernia occurs when an internal part of a body pushes through a part of a weakened muscle or the surrounding tissue wall. This results in a lump or swelling which may or may not be painful. They mainly occur in the abdominal wall which holds the large and small intestines.



Treatment

Hernias cannot be treated with medication and often need an operation. Hernia repair surgery is carried out using surgery to put the hernia back in its place. During this operation a mesh may be fixed to the muscle or tissue to strengthen it and repair the hernia.

Eligibility Criteria

Some studies have shown the chance of a hernia happening again is higher when biological mesh is used. Therefore, the use of biological mesh instead of standard mesh is not supported or funded.

This means the patient's NHS commissioning organisation (CCG), who is responsible for buying healthcare services on behalf of patients, will **only** fund the treatment if an Individual Funding Request (IFR) application has shown exceptional clinical need and the CCG supports this.

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