Participant Questionnaire

Version 1.0, 11/05/2022

Please circle your choice of answer in each case.

Section 1: Background

We are trying to understand a bit more about you and the effects of your operation on your health.

What is your height? _______ cm / ft
What is your weight? _______ Kg / Stone

Have you ever smoked on a daily basis?
Yes, currently a smoker  Yes, but an ex-smoker  Never Smoked

Do you currently feel pain at the site of the scar from your operation?
Yes  No  Sometimes

Do you feel a swelling or bulge at the site of your scar?
Yes  No  Sometimes

Do you see a swelling or bulge at the site of your scar?
Yes  No  Not sure

Section 2: Knowledge of Incisional Hernia

After having abdominal surgery, there is a risk that some of the abdominal contents can push through a weakness left in the muscle at the site of the operation. This is called an incisional hernia.

Did you know what an incisional hernia was before your first operation?
Yes  No  Don’t know/Unsure

Were you told that Incisional Hernia was a risk for your operation?
Yes  No  Unsure/Don’t know
How much information regarding incisional hernia was given to you before the operation?
None  Not enough  The right amount  Too much

Have you heard of doctors using mesh as part of a hernia repair?
Yes  No  Don’t know/unsure
Is what you’ve heard about mesh...
Positive  Negative  Neutral  Not Applicable

Do you know someone who has had a hernia repair?
Yes  No
If yes, did it involve mesh?
Yes  No  Don’t know/unsure
Was their outcome positive or negative?
Positive  Negative  Not sure  Not applicable

If you have heard of mesh, where have you heard about it from?
Doctor/Healthcare professional  News/Media  Friend/relative
Other:__________  Not applicable

If you have any other comments about mesh, please feel free to record them below.
Section 3: Risk and prevention

What is a risk-prediction tool?

Risk-prediction tools are used by doctors to work out a person’s risk of developing a medical condition, for example the risk of having a heart attack based on the risk factors that they have. This allows doctors to convey the risk to patients in the form of a number, for example 10% or 1-in-10.

Risk-prediction and Incisional Hernia

Risk-prediction tools are being developed with the aim of working out a person’s risk of developing an incisional hernia before their operation. We hope that this will allow surgeons to give patients an idea of what their risk is before the operation. Patients can then understand if they are at high, medium or low risk, and what they might be able to do about it before the operation.

For patients that are predicted to be “high risk” for developing an incisional hernia, it may be possible to use a synthetic mesh, similar to those used to fix groin hernias. This would be placed in the wound at the end of the initial operation to strengthen the wound to try and reduce the chance of developing an incisional hernia.

Aims of the study

We want to know whether mesh placed to prevent hernias during the initial surgery would be acceptable to patients, and if patients would find a risk-prediction tool helpful when learning more about risk of incisional hernia before surgery.

Please read the questions below and circle the answer that best applies to you.

Q1. If you were told before your operation that you were “high risk” of developing an incisional hernia, and that using mesh might help to reduce that risk, to what extent would you agree or disagree with the following statements?

   a. “I would be worried about the safety of mesh”

      1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5
      --|---|---|---|---
      Strongly disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly agree

   b. “I would be worried about the mesh causing me pain”

      1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5
      --|---|---|---|---
      Strongly disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly agree
c. “I would be worried that if the mesh was implanted, it would not be easy to remove at a later date if it didn’t work”

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d. “I would be worried about how much benefit I will get from mesh”

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e. “I do not think I have enough information about mesh to make a decision about it”

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Q2. Thinking back to your original operation, please read the questions below and circle the answer that best applies to you.

a. “I would have found risk-scoring before an operation useful in helping me understand my risk of developing incisional hernia”

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b. “Understanding my risk of developing incisional hernia would have helped me to make decisions about different treatment options”

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c. “The idea of using mesh to strengthen the wound before a hernia develops would be acceptable to me”

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d. “I would want to find out more information regarding mesh before deciding if it would be acceptable to me”

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What additional information about mesh would you want to know in order to make a decision about it?

_Please record your answer in the box below_

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.

If you have any further comments about any of the topics discussed, please feel free to contact the research team phone on 02921 842934 or email ColorectalResearch.CAV@wales.nhs.uk.