



**Clarunis**

Universitäres  
Bauchzentrum  
Basel  
Basel

St. Claraspital und  
Universitätsspital  
Basel

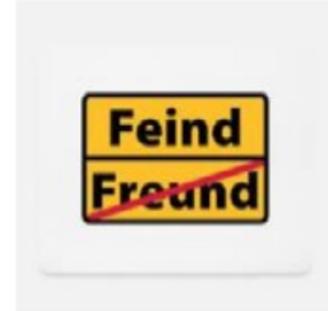
# **Mesh in pelvic floor surgery: friend or foe?**

**PD Dr. Marco von Strauss**



# Friend or «Foe»

- «Foe»
  - **Widersacher**
  - **Feind**
  - **Gegner**



# What are we talking about?

- Video da Vinci VMR



Clarunis

Universitäres Bauchzentrum Basel



# What are we not talking about?

- Abbildung TVT

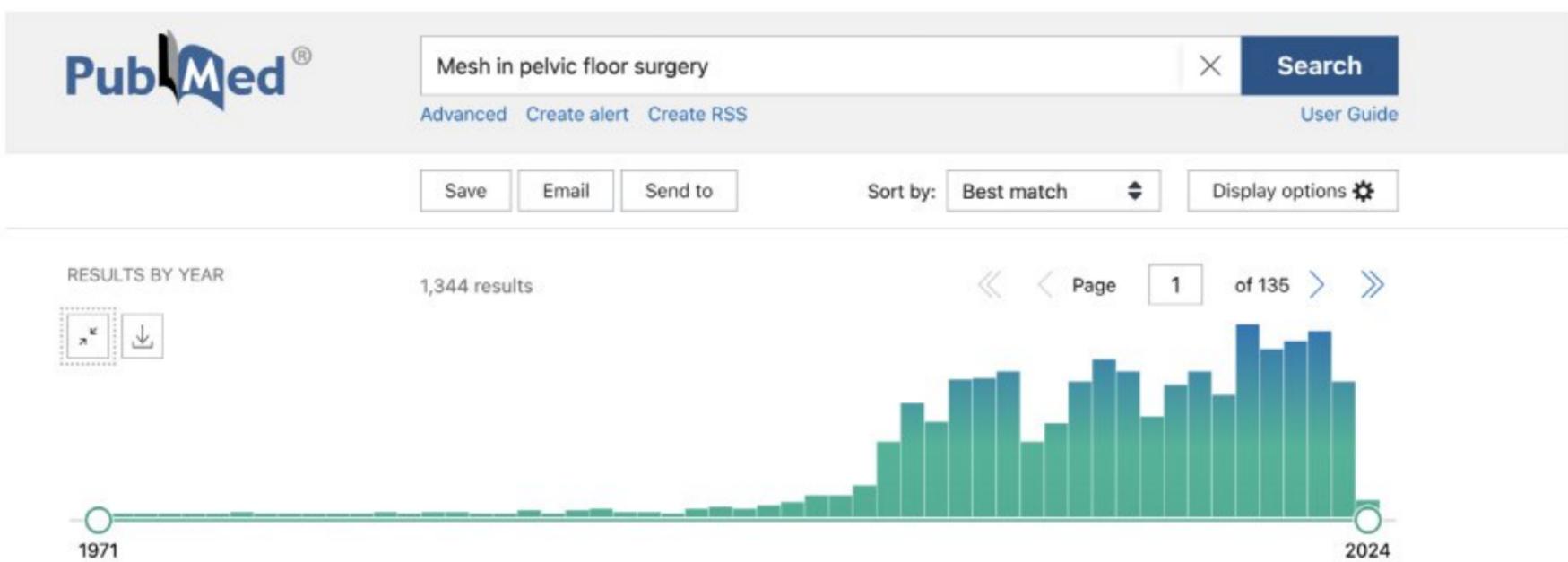


Clarunis

Universitäres Bauchzentrum Basel



# Short review...



Clarunis

Universitäres Bauchzentrum Basel



Universität  
Basel

## Short review...

**PubMed®**

Mesh in pelvic floor surgery

[Advanced](#) [Create alert](#) [Create RSS](#)

Save

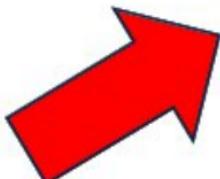
Email

Send to

### RESULTS BY YEAR

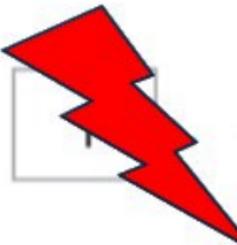


1,344 results

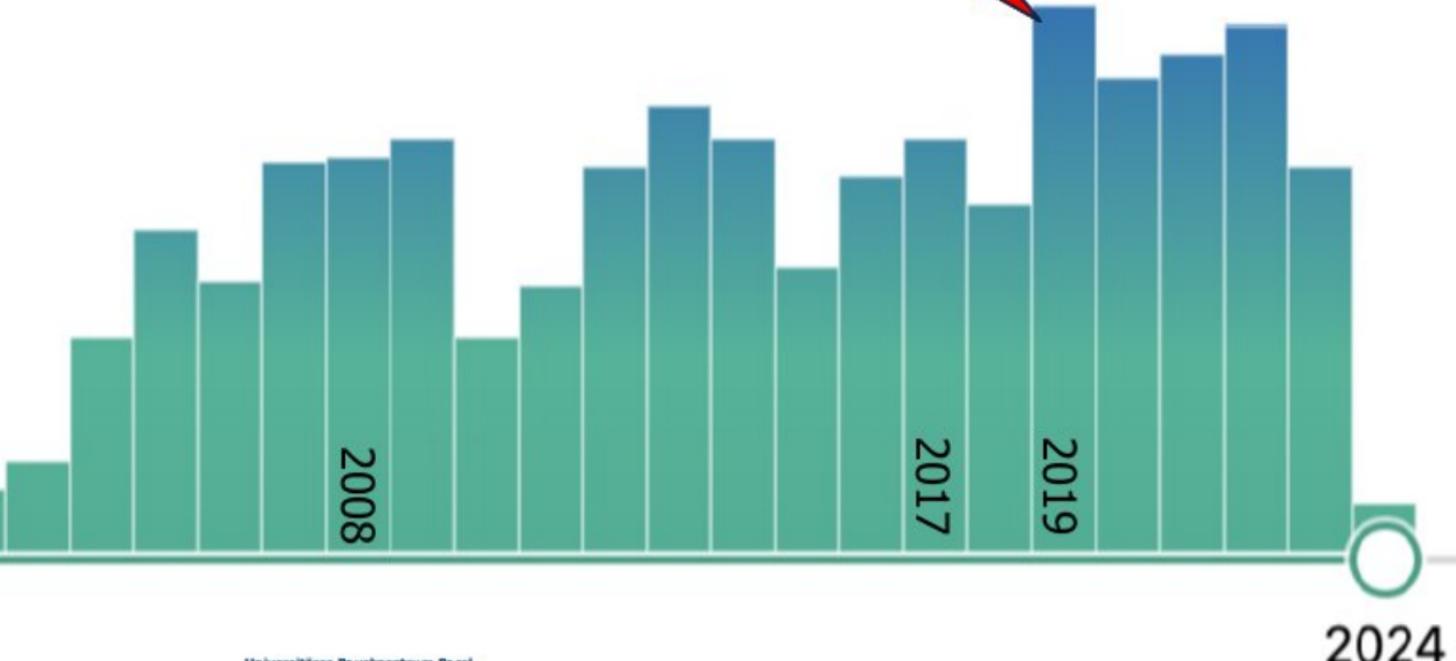




Page



of 135



# Mesh in pelvic floor surgery: The rationale

- Indications for mesh
  - **Rectal prolapse**
  - **Internal prolapse**
  - **Rectocele / Enterocoele**
  - **Anterior Compartment prolapse/stress urinary incontinence**
- **Others:**
- **Perineal hernia (prophylaxis)**



# Why mesh?

- High(er?) recurrence rates w/o mesh
- Sustainable fixation
- Induction of fibrosis/scar formation to support collagen synthesis

Original Article

doi:10.1111/j.1365-2701.2011.02177

## PROSPER: a randomised comparison of surgical treatments for rectal prolapse

A. Senapati\*, R. G. Gray†, L. J. Middleton‡, J. Harding§, R. K. Hills¶, N. C. M. Armitage\*\*  
L. Buckley|| and J. M. A. Northover||‡ on behalf of the PROSPER Collaborative Group<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Queen Alexandra Hospital, Portsmouth, UK; <sup>2</sup>Clinical Trial Statistician, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK; <sup>3</sup>Birmingham Clinical Trials Unit, University of Birmingham, Birmingham, UK; <sup>4</sup>Sexual Health and HIV Research Department, Whiston Street Clinic, Birmingham, UK; <sup>5</sup>Wansbeck Clinical Trials Unit, Cullercoats, North Tyneside, UK; <sup>6</sup>Colorectal Surgery Unit, Nottingham University Hospitals, Nottingham, UK; <sup>7</sup>Cancer Research UK Clinical Trials Unit, University of Birmingham, Birmingham, UK and <sup>8</sup>Saint Marks Hospital for Infertility and Colorectal Disorders, London, UK

Received 27 November 2012; accepted 5 February 2013. Accepted Article online: 5 March 2013

CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES

## Clinical Practice Guidelines for the Treatment of Rectal Prolapse

Liliana Bordeianou, M.D., M.P.H.\* Ian Paquette, M.D.\* Eric Johnson, M.D.  
Stefan D. Holubar, M.D.\* Wolfgang Gaertner, M.D.\* Daniel L. Feingold, M.D.  
Scott R. Steele, M.D.

Prepared by the Clinical Practice Guidelines Committee of the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons

# Approach & Mesh

- Perineal approach
  - **TVT / Band operations in Urogynecology**
  - **Transvaginal aproach in Rectocele repair**
  - **Prophylactic mesh placements in APR or for perineal hernia repair**
- Abdominal approach
  - **Lap./Robotic Ventral mesh rectopexy**
  - **POPS (pelvic organ prolapse suspension)**
  - **Sacrocolpo(recto)pexy**
  - **(posterior mesh rectopexy)**



# Mesh Types

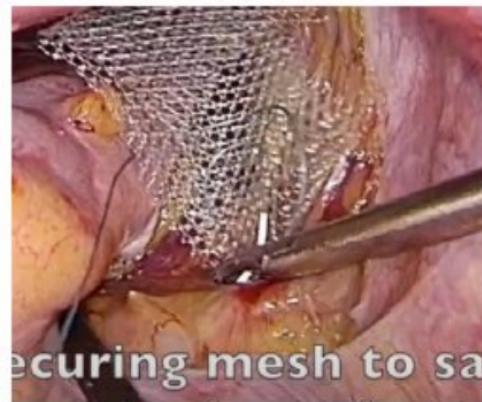
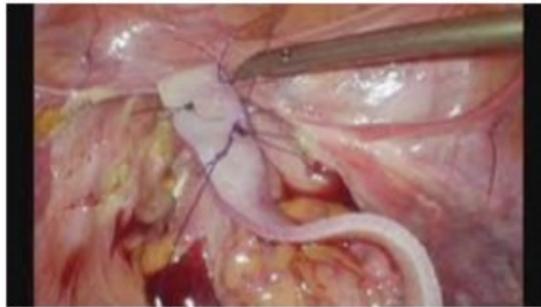
- Absorbable
  - **Biodesign (Cook Medical®)** porcine small intestinal submucosa-collagen
  - **Permacol®** (porcine dermal collagen)
- Synthetic
  - **Polyester (?)**
  - **Polypropylene** (J&J (Prolene) Marlex (Bard))
  - **PVDF Polyvinylidene fluoride ( Dynamesh)**
  - ....



COVIDIEN

# Mesh fixation

- Where?
  - **Rectum**
  - **Vaginal stump**
  - **Rectovaginal septum**
  - **Sacrum**
  - **Anterior abdominal wall**
- How
  - **Absorbable sutures**
  - **Non absorbable sutures**
  - **Tacker (absorbable/non absorbable)**



# The potential «cost» of mesh (fixation)

- Morbidity
  - **Mesh erosion**
  - **De novo chronic pain**
  - **De novo dyspareunia**
  - **Recurrence**
  - **Shrinkage**
  - **Obstruction (bowel/ureter/urethra/vagina)**
  - **Adhesive bowel obstruction**
  - **Fistula formation**



Clarunis

Universitäres Bauchzentrum Basel



Van der Schans Colorectal Disease 2022  
Singh S Colorectal Disease 2023  
E Abet Colorectal Disease 2012

# The potential «cost» of mesh (fixation)

- Morbidity
  - **Mesh erosion (0-2,4%)**
  - **De novo chronic pain (15%)**
  - **De novo dyspareunia (0-30%)**
  - **Recurrence (1-18%)**
  - **Shrinkage**
  - **Obstruction (bowel/ureter/urethra/vagina)**
  - **Adhesive bowel obstruction**
  - **Fistula formation**



Clarunis

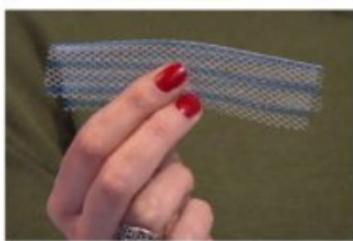
Universitäres Bauchzentrum Basel



Van der Schans Colorectal Disease 2022  
Singh S Colorectal Disease 2023  
E Abet Colorectal Disease 2012

# Mesh in pelvic floor surgery: The «Irrationale»?

- FDA warning 2008 **on transvaginal mesh**
- Ban on mesh in pelvic floor surgery in UK 2017
  - **For transvaginal mesh (TVT et al)**
  - **For pelvic organ prolapse**



## The Guardian

Government halts vaginal mesh surgery in NHS hospitals

Injunction ordered in England to avoid further risk of life-changing injuries to women

TOO LITTLE TOO LATE? Vaginal mesh implants that have left hundreds of women in agonising pain should be banned, Nice says

Ukulele Party  
Published: 11/05/2017 Updated: 09/03/2018 10:17

C Clarunis

Universitäres Bauchzentrum Basel

Universität  
Basel



EXCLUSIVE

Fabulous > Health And Fitness

**SLING THE MESH** It's barbaric and ruins women's lives... Mum who could barely walk after vaginal mesh implant calls for the 'disgusting' procedure to be banned



Seeking Justice: Pelvic Mesh Compensation Amidst Calls for Bans on Surgical Mesh

1000+ views



NICE National Institute for  
Health and Care Excellence



Laparoscopic ventral mesh rectopexy for internal rectal prolapse

Interventional procedures guidance  
Published: 20 June 2018

# Mesh in pelvic floor surgery: The «Irrationale»?

- FDA warning 2008 **on transvaginal mesh**
- Ban on mesh in pelvic floor surgery in UK 2017
  - **For transvaginal mesh (TVT et al)**
  - **For pelvic organ prolapse**



## The Guardian

Government halts vaginal mesh surgery in NHS hospitals

Injunction ordered in England to avoid further risk of life-changing injuries to women

**TOO LITTLE TOO LATE?** Vaginal mesh implants that have left hundreds of women in agonising pain should be banned, Nice says

Lucy Party  
Published: 11/05/2017 | Updated: 09/03/2018 07:17

 Clarunis

Universitäres Bauchzentrum Basel

 Universität  
Basel



EXCLUSIVE

Fabulous > Health And Fitness

**SLING THE MESH** It's barbaric and ruins women's lives... Mum who could barely walk after vaginal mesh implant calls for the 'disgusting' procedure to be banned



Seeking Justice: Pelvic Mesh Compensation Amidst Calls for Bans on Surgical Mesh

1 min read 3 views



**NICE** National Institute for  
Health and Care Excellence



Laparoscopic ventral mesh rectopexy for internal rectal prolapse

Interventional procedures guidance  
Published: 20 June 2018

# ACPGBI Position Statement 2017

- Morbidity for ventral mesh rectopexy lower
- MDT for indication
- Adequate training
- Outcome registry
- No use of polyester mesh

Consensus statement

doi:10.1111/cob.13893

Position statement by the Pelvic Floor Society on behalf of the Association of Coloproctology of Great Britain and Ireland on the use of mesh in ventral mesh rectopexy

M. A. Mercer-Jones<sup>a</sup>, S. R. Brown<sup>b†</sup>, C. H. Knowles<sup>c‡</sup> and A. B. Williams<sup>d§</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Gateshead NHS Trust, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Gateshead, UK, <sup>b</sup>Sheffield Teaching Hospitals, Sheffield, UK, <sup>c</sup>National Bowel Research Centre, Bland Institute, Queen Mary University London, London, UK, and <sup>d</sup>Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, London, UK

Received 19 July 2017; accepted 31 August 2017; Accepted Article online 19 September 2017

# Risk of mesh in transvaginal & transabdominal procedures

- Transvaginal mesh (TVT et al)
  - **Intra & early postoperative**
    - Hemorrhage
    - Bowel perforation
    - Nerve damage (Pain 30%!)
  - **5% re-operation after 5 year**
  - **6% mesh erosion**
  - **4% revisional surgery**
  - **3% removal**
  - **Overall complication rate 20-40%**
- Trans abdominal mesh
  - **Intra & early postoperative**
    - Hemorrhage 0.5%
    - Obstruction 0.3%
    - Bowel perforation 0.4%
  - **2% mesh erosions after 5a**
  - **1% re-eoperation**
  - **Removal rarely indicated**
  - **Overall complication rate 11%**

Kelly EC et al Obstet Gynecol 2016  
Fusco F et al Eur Urol 2017  
Novara G et al Eur Urol 2008  
Barksby D et al Surg Technol Int 2014  
Evans C DCR 2015



# Risk of Mesh in transvaginal & transabdominal procedures

- Transvaginal mesh (TVT et al)
  - **Intra & early postoperative Complications**
    - Hemorraghe
    - Bowel perforation
    - Nerve damage (Pain 30%!)
  - **5% re-operation after 5 year**
  - **6% mesh erosion**
  - **4% revisional surgery**
  - **3% removal**
  - **Overall complication rate 20-40%**
- Trans abdominal mesh
  - **Intra& early postoperative Complications**
    - Hemorraghe 0.5%
    - Obstruction 0.3%
    - Bowel perforation 0.4%
  - **2% Mesh Erosions after 5a**
  - **1% re-eoperation**
  - **Removal rarely indicated**
  - **Overall complication rate 11%**

Kelly EC et al Obstet Gynecol 2016  
Fusco F et al Eur Urol 2017  
Novara G et al Eur Urol 2008  
Barksik D et al Surg Technol Int 2014  
Evans C DCR 2015



# Risk of Mesh in transvaginal & transabdominal procedures

- Transvaginal mesh (TVT et al)
  - **Intra & early postoperative Complications**
    - Hemorraghe
    - Bowel perforation
    - Nerve damage (Pain 30%!)
  - **5% re-operation after 5 year**
  - **6% mesh erosion**
  - **4% revisional surgery**
  - **3% removal**
  - **Overall complication rate 20-40%**
- Trans abdominal mesh
  - **Intra& early postoperative Complications**
    - Hemorraghe 0.5%
    - Obstruction 0.3%
    - Bowel perforation 0.4%
  - **2% Mesh Erosions after 5a**
  - **1% re-eoperation**
  - **Removal rarely indicated**
  - **Overall complication rate 11%**

Kelly EC et al Obstet Gynecol 2016  
Fusco F et al Eur Urol 2017  
Novara G et al Eur Urol 2008  
Barksik D et al Surg Technol Int 2014  
Evans C DCR 2015



# Data on mesh in posterior compartment prolapse surgery

ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTION

## A Multicenter Collaboration to Assess the Safety of Laparoscopic Ventral Rectopexy

Charles Evans, M.D., F.R.C.S.<sup>1</sup> • Andrew R. L. Stevenson, M.B.B.S., F.R.A.C.S.<sup>2</sup>

Pierpaolo Sileri, M.D., Ph.D.<sup>3</sup> • Mark A. Mercer-Jones, M.B.B.S., F.R.C.S.<sup>4</sup>

Anthony R. Dixon, D.M., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.S.(Edinb.)<sup>5</sup>

Chris Cunningham, M.D., F.R.C.S.(Edinb.)<sup>1</sup> • Oliver M. Jones, D.M., F.R.C.S.<sup>1</sup>

Ian Lindsey, M.B.B.S., F.R.A.C.S.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Oxford University Hospitals National Health Service Trust, Oxford, United Kingdom

<sup>2</sup> Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, University of Queensland, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia

<sup>3</sup> Department of Surgery, University of Rome Tor Vergata, Policlinico Tor Vergata, Rome, Italy

<sup>4</sup> Department of Colorectal Surgery, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Gateshead, United Kingdom

<sup>5</sup> Frenchay Hospital, Bristol, United Kingdom

- 2203 PatientInnen (5 internationale Zentren)
- 80% synthetic mesh



Clarunis

Universitäres Bauchzentrum Basel

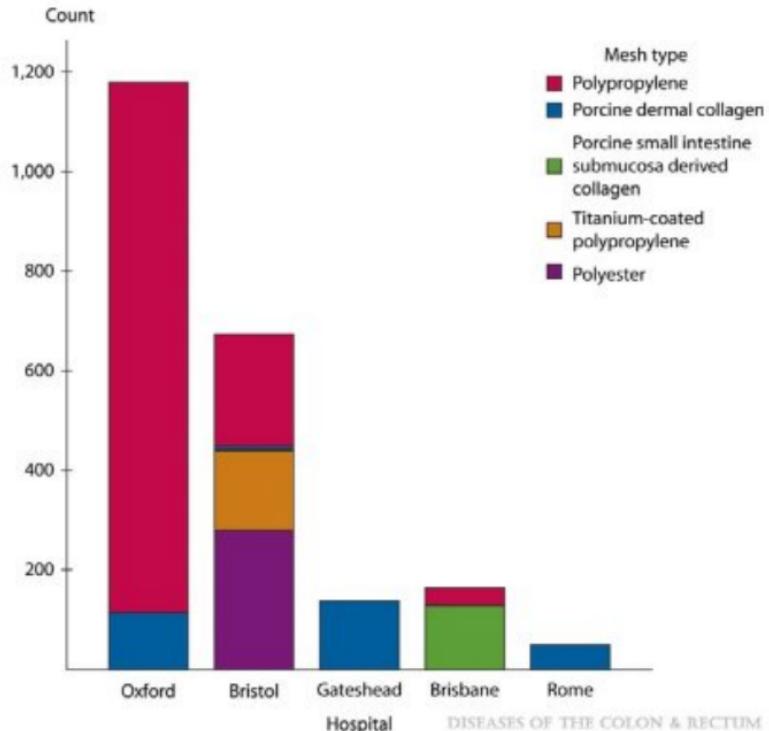


DCR 2015

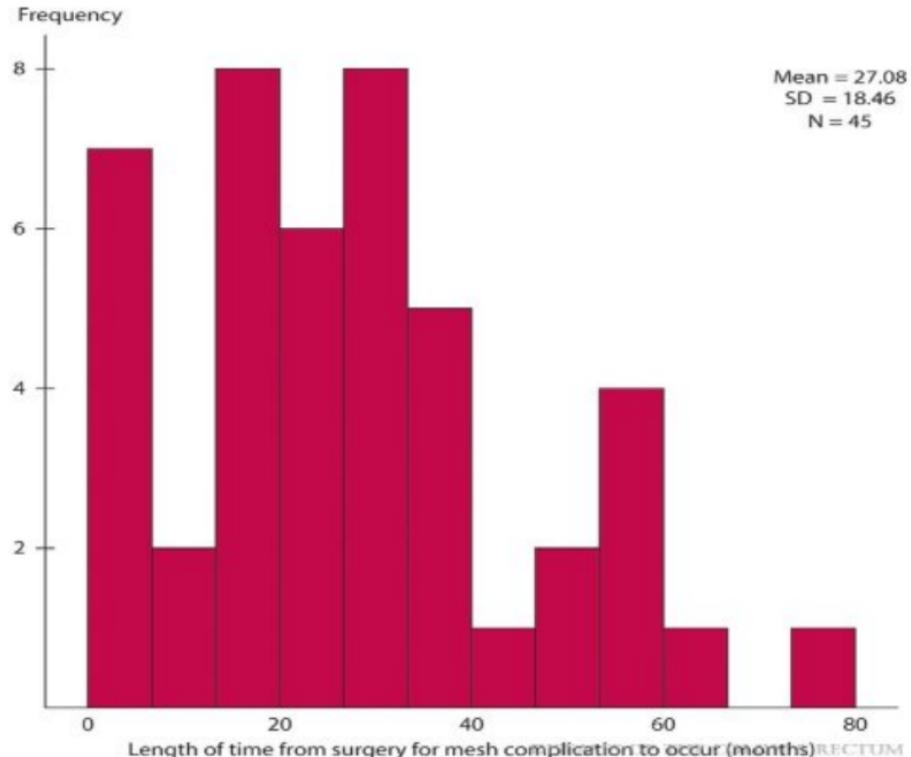
## Mesh erosion by mesh type

Mesh Type	N(er erosions/total)	Rate of erosion
Polypropylene	23/1325	1.7%
Polyester	18/279	6.4%
PVDF	1/160	0.6%
Porcine dermal	3/309	1%
Porcine submucosa	0/30	-

## Used Mesh Types by center



## Timing of mesh complication occurrence



## Non Mesh related complications

Complication	Frequency, n (%)	
Surgical complication		
Port site hernia	27 (1.4)	
Port site infection/hematoma	26 (1.3)	
Pelvic hematoma	10 (0.5)	
Urinary retention	37 (1.9)	
Perforated viscus	8 (0.4)	
Small-bowel obstruction/ileus	6 (0.3)	
Subcutaneous emphysema	3 (0.2)	
Vaginal bleed/discharge	3 (0.2)	
Musculoskeletal	2 (0.1)	
Intersphincteric abscess	1 (0.1)	
Medical complication		
Urinary infection	19 (1.0)	Morbidität 11%
Respiratory infection	6 (0.3)	
Cardiovascular	12 (0.6)	
Venous thrombotic event	2 (0.1)	
Neurological	4 (0.2)	
Pain	55 (2.8)	Mortalität 0.1%
Pyrexia of unknown origin	5 (0.2)	
Diarrhea	6 (0.3)	
Constipation	7(0.4)	
Duodenal ulcer	2 (0.1)	

DISEASES OF THE COLON & RECTUM

## Pain Sites after ventral mesh rectopexy

<i>Site of postoperative pain</i>	<i>Frequency, n (%)</i>
Port site	14 (0.7)
Intra-abdominal	11 (0.6)
Perineum/perianally	10 (0.5)
Pelvic	7 (0.4)
Sacral	7 (0.4)
Back	3 (0.2)
Thigh	2 (0.1)
Neck	1 (0.1)

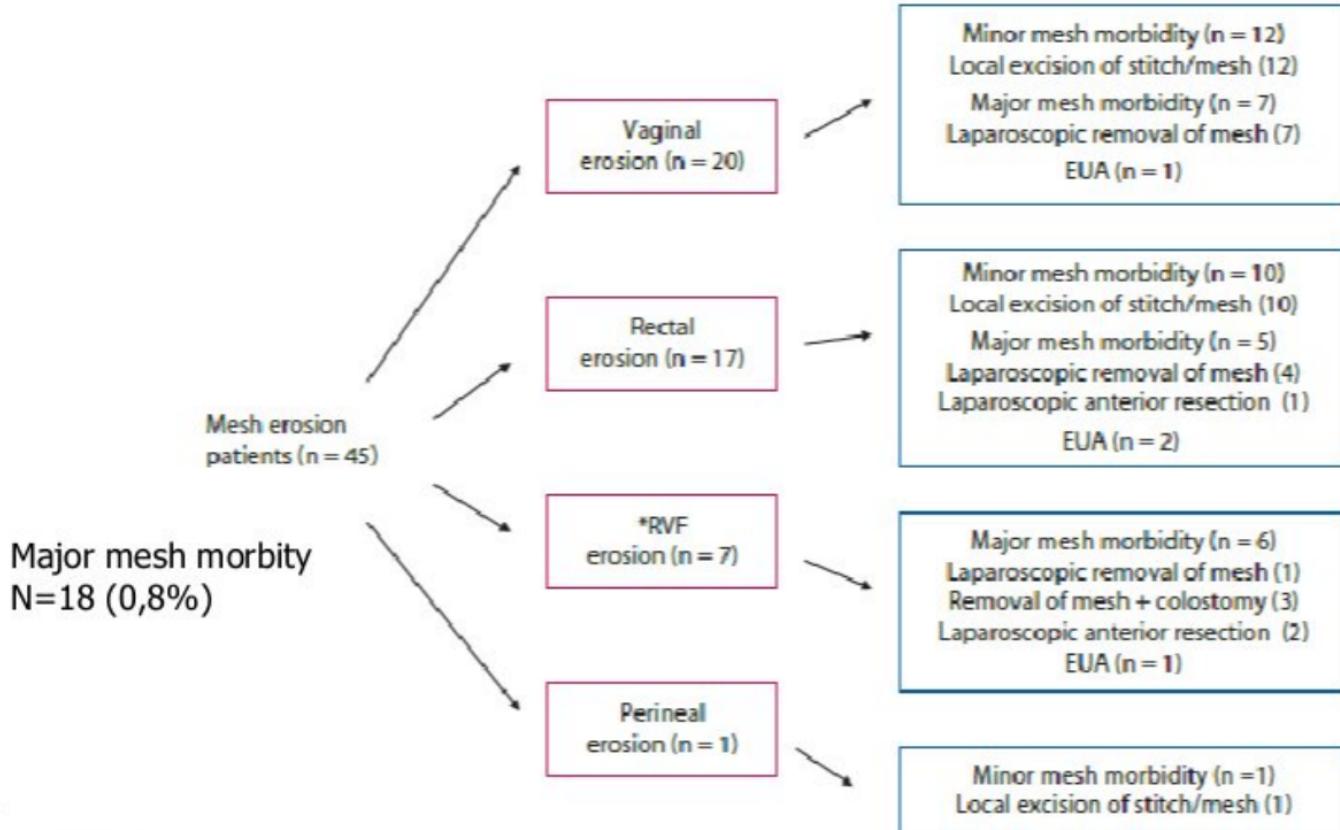
DISEASES OF THE COLON & RECTUM

## Pain Sites after ventral mesh rectopexy

<i>Site of postoperative pain</i>	<i>Frequency, n (%)</i>
Port site	14 (0.7)
Intra-abdominal	11 (0.6)
Perineum/perianally	10 (0.5)
Pelvic	7 (0.4)
Sacral	7 (0.4)
Back	3 (0.2)
Thigh	2 (0.1)
Neck	1 (0.1)

DISEASES OF THE COLON & RECTUM

# Mesh Erosion Severity



# CAVEATS Mesh fixation

ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTION

## Impact of Suture Type on Erosion Rate After Laparoscopic Ventral Mesh Rectopexy: A Case-Matched Study

Patricia Tejedor, M.D., Ph.D. • Ian Lindsey, M.B.B.S., F.R.A.C.S.  
Oliver M. Jones, D.M., F.R.C.S. • Helen J.S. Jones, M.B.Ch.B., F.R.C.S.Ed.  
Kim Gorissen, M.D. • Marta Penna, M.B.B.S., B.Sc.(Hons.), M.R.C.S.  
Chris Cunningham, B.Sc.(Hons.), M.B.Ch.B., M.D., F.R.C.S.Ed.

Department of Colorectal Surgery, Churchill Hospital, University Hospitals of Oxford, Oxford, United Kingdom

- Erosion 2% (n=6/495) 2010-2017
- Erosionen ausnahmslos bei Verwendung von nicht resorbierbaren Nähten

DCR 2019



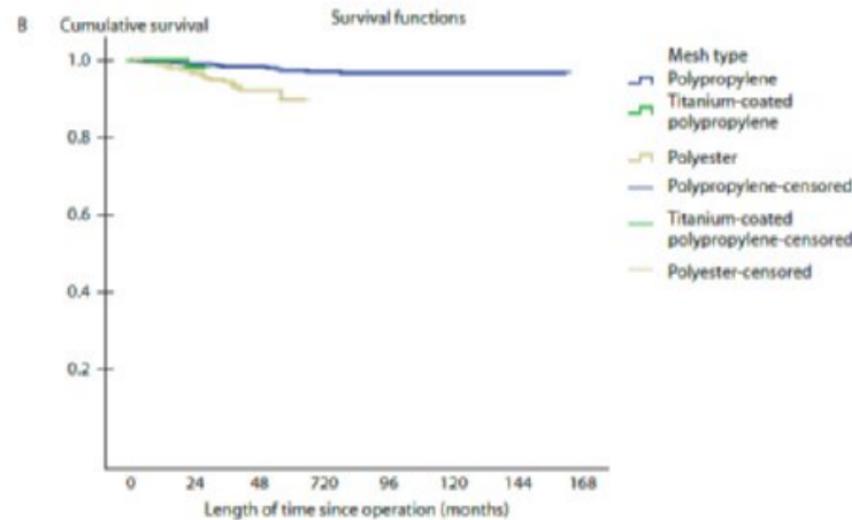
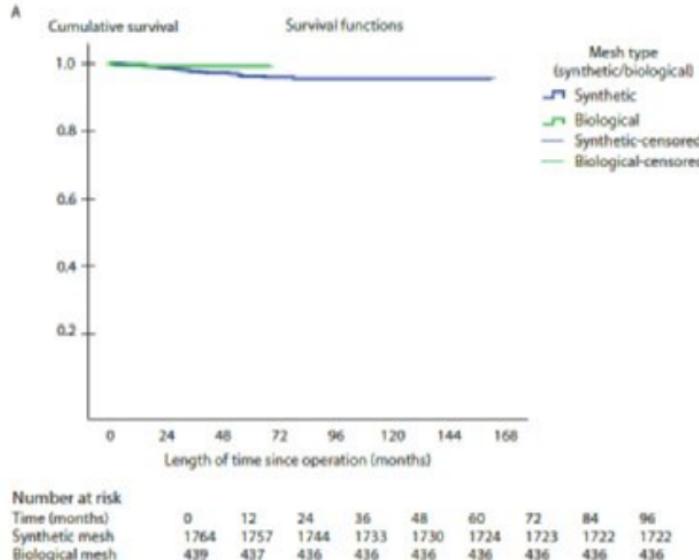
Clarunis

Universitäres Bauchzentrum Basel



Universität  
Basel

# CAVEATS Mesh Type



# Mesh related complications

Techniques in Coloproctology (2022) 26:85–98  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10151-021-02534-4>

REVIEW



## Mesh-related complications and recurrence after ventral mesh rectopexy with synthetic versus biologic mesh: a systematic review and meta-analysis

E. M. van der Schans<sup>1,2,3</sup> · M. A. Boom<sup>1</sup> · M. El Moumni<sup>3</sup> · P. M. Verheijen<sup>1</sup> · I. A. M. J. Broeders<sup>1,2</sup> · E. C. J. Consten<sup>1,3</sup>

Received: 13 August 2021 / Accepted: 27 September 2021 / Published online: 23 November 2021  
© The Author(s) 2021



Clarunis

Universitäres Bauchzentrum Basel



# Recurrence by mesh type

Mesh Type	N	Recurrence	%	Confidence Intervall
Synthetic	2371	155	6%	4-8%
Biologic	602	38	6%	3-10%
Total	2973	193	6.4%	

Techniques In Coloproctology (2022) 26:85–98  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10151-021-02534-4>

REVIEW



Mesh-related complications and recurrence after ventral mesh rectopexy with synthetic versus biologic mesh: a systematic review and meta-analysis

Follow up 5-74 moths  
Shorter for biologic mesh...

E. M. van der Schans<sup>1,2,3</sup> · M. A. Boom<sup>1</sup> · M. El Moumni<sup>2</sup> · P. M. Verheijen<sup>1</sup> · I. A. M. J. Broeders<sup>1,2</sup> · E. C. J. Consten<sup>1,3</sup>



Clarunis

Universitäres Bauchzentrum Basel



Van der Schans et al Tech Coloproct 2022 32

# Mesh Type Basel/Wien/Edinbourgh

	n/%		P-value*
Mesh type	synthetic	biologic	
Total (n=360)	220	140	
Surgical recurrence	12 (5%)	13 (9%)	0.2022
Further therapy necessary	81 (37%)	55 (39%)	0.6568
Oral laxatives	78 (35%)	44 (31%)	0.4934
Rectal laxatives	16 (7%)	15 (11%)	0.3352
Complications	24 (11%)	8 (6%)	0.2875



Clarunis

Universitäres Bauchzentrum Basel



Christen et al Abstract/Poster  
ESCP Vilnius 2023

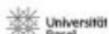
# Mesh Type Basel/Wien/Edinbourgh

	n/%		P-value*
Mesh type	synthetic	biologic	
Total (n=360)	220	140	
Surgical recurrence	12 (5%)	13 (9%)	0.2022
Further therapy necessary	81 (37%)	55 (39%)	0.6568
Oral laxatives	78 (35%)	44 (31%)	0.4934
Rectal laxatives	16 (7%)	15 (11%)	0.3352
Complications	24 (11%)	8 (6%)	0.2875



Clarunis

Universitäres Bauchzentrum Basel



Christen et al Abstract/Poster  
ESCP Vilnius 2023

# And the guidelines?



Clarunis

Universitäres Bauchzentrum Basel



# Obstructed defaecation syndrome: European consensus guidelines on the surgical management

A. Picciariello <sup>1 \*</sup>, P. R. O'Connell<sup>2</sup>, D. Hahnloser<sup>3</sup>, G. Gallo <sup>4</sup>, A. Munoz-Duyos<sup>5</sup>, O. Schwandner<sup>6</sup>, P. Sileri<sup>7</sup>, G. Milito<sup>8</sup>, S. Riss<sup>9</sup>, P. A. BoccaSanta<sup>10</sup>, G. Naldini<sup>11</sup>, A. Arroyo <sup>12</sup>, F. de laPortilla<sup>13</sup>, P. Tsarkov<sup>14</sup>, B. Roche<sup>15</sup>, C. Isbert<sup>16</sup>, M. Trompetto<sup>17</sup>, A. d'Hoore<sup>18</sup>, K. Matzel<sup>19</sup>, E. Xynos<sup>20</sup>, L. Lundby<sup>21</sup>, C. Ratto<sup>22</sup>, E. Consten<sup>23</sup>, A. Infantino<sup>24</sup>, Y. Panis <sup>25</sup>, G. Terrosu<sup>26</sup>, E. Espin<sup>27</sup>, J.-L. Faucheron <sup>28</sup>, A. Guttadauro<sup>29</sup>, M. Adamina <sup>30</sup>, P. A. Lehur<sup>31</sup> and D. F. Altomare<sup>1</sup>

# Algorithmus

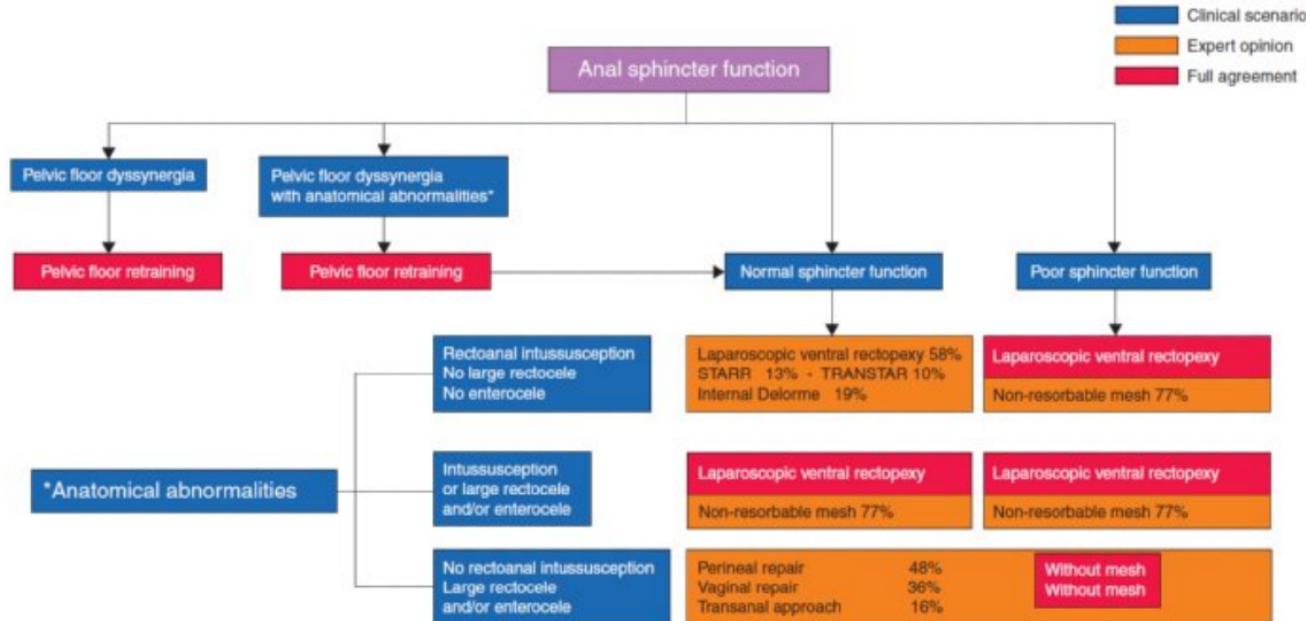
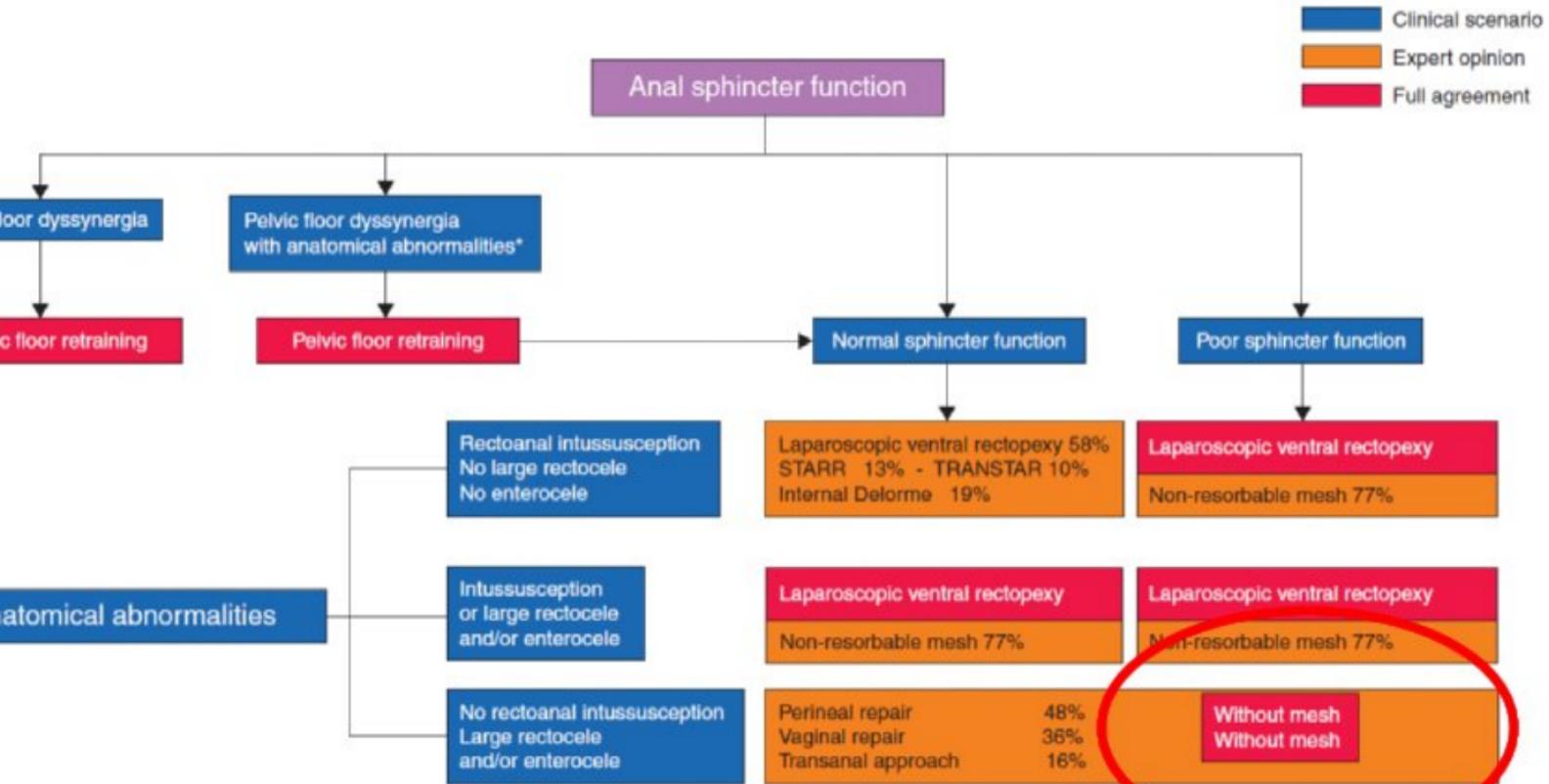
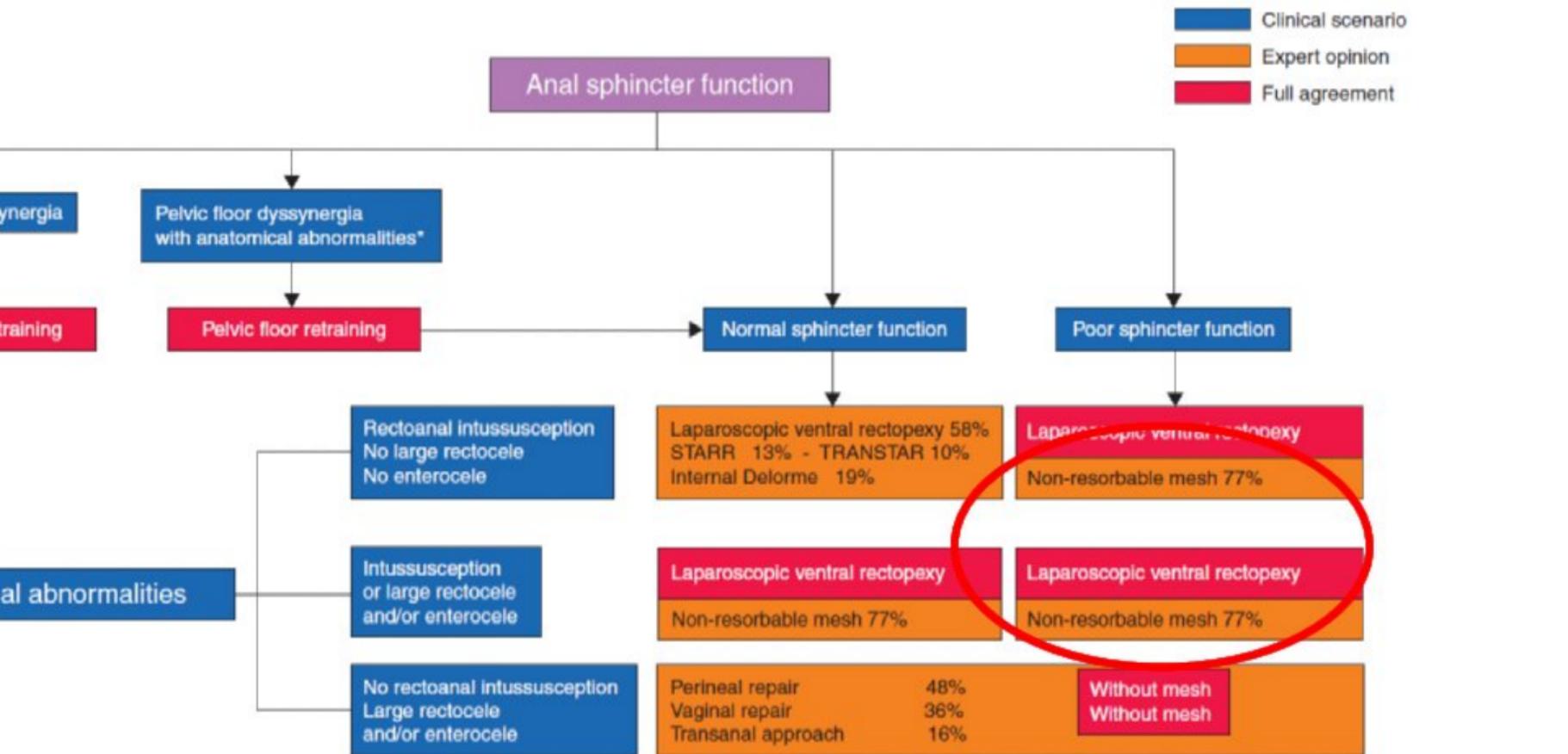


Fig. 1 Algorithm for the management of obstructed defaecation syndrome based on e-consensus  
STARR, stapled transanal rectal resection; TRANSTAR.



Algorithm for the management of obstructed defaecation syndrome based on e-consensus  
TRANSTAR = transanal rectal resection; TRANSTAR.



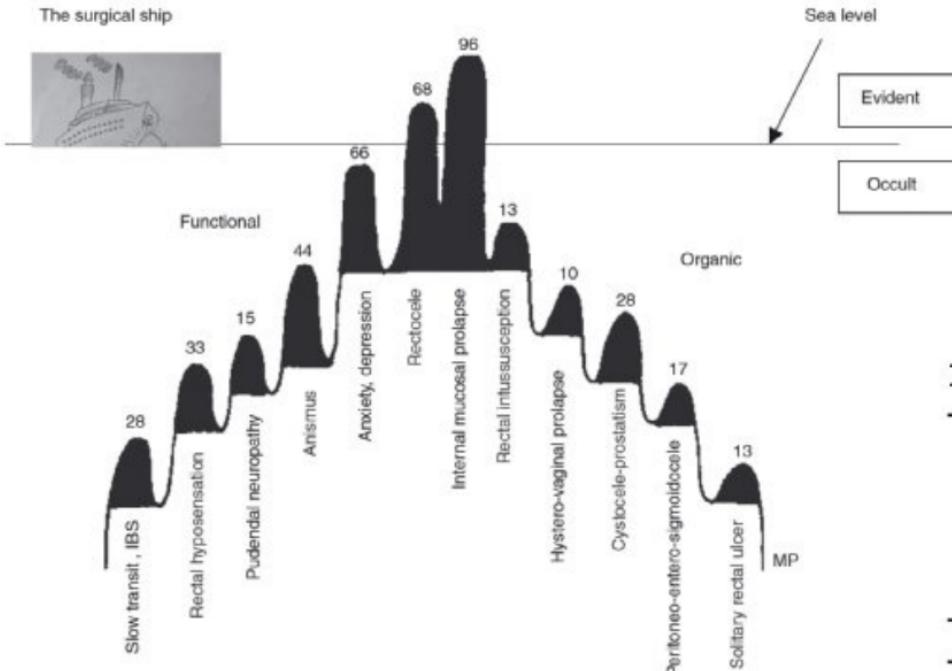


for the management of obstructed defaecation syndrome based on e-consensus

transanal rectal resection: TRANSTAR

Universitäres Balanzzentrum Basel

# CAVEAT Indication...



Pescatori M et al., Colorectal disease  
2006; 9, 452-456

## 100 Patients

- 100: more than one disease, of those:
  - 66% Anxiety/Depression
  - 44% Anismus
  - 33% rectal hyposensation
- 66: more than three
- Median number of «icebergs»: 5



Clarunis

Universitäres Bauchzentrum Basel



Universität  
Basel

# Summary

- Mesh in posterior compartment surgery is...
  - **effective**
  - **has low recurrence rates for prolapse**
  - **comes with a risk of 2% of mesh erosion...**
  - **which can be lowered by the use of absorbable fixation**
- Absorbable mesh has trend for higher recurrence rates &
  - **more reoperations...**
- Good indications are the key to success...
- Mesh is not «THE» foe

