

Testimony of James Shull U.S Residence Committee on Energy and Commerce/Subcommittee on Health And Wellness February 15, 2012 My name is Jim shull as well as I am from Browns Mills, New Jacket. I would like to thanks for allowing me the chance to speak below today. My story goes back to 2005 when I was informed I had a rupture. I was informed that I was young and also would certainly recover swiftly.

## **I was told I would certainly be strolling up stairs in 3 days and back to work in 2 weeks.**

I woke up in the recuperation room from the surgical procedure in unbearable discomfort, the registered nurses provided me some pain medication as well as informed me I would be great and sent me home. 2 days later on I remained in such pain that I could not stand up straight or hardly stroll. I called my doctors workplace and he informed me to satisfy him at the medical facility Emergency clinic.

He took me in to an exam space, looked at the medical website as well as informed me that it was really contaminated. He recommended an anti-biotic and Morphine for the discomfort however, nothing seemed to aid. The infection was so poor that I had streaks running down my groin; I was still extremely inflamed, bruised and in severe pain.

I continued to call the doctor over the next 2 weeks just for him to tell me that I am simply a slow-moving therapist. Rather a distinction from strolling up stairs in 3 days, like he told me before the surgery.

### **As time went on I was still in unbearable pain.**

At my 6 week follow up I discussed again to my doctor that the discomfort was excruciating, so, he made a decision to inject my groin with Novocain, ideal thru the laceration and also sent me back to work. The pain I was really feeling, was as if there was a sharp item left within me. My boss informed me that I couldn't go to work if I could not stand straight as well as walk, so, he sent me residence.

After continuously returning to the cosmetic surgeon he made a decision to send me to Discomfort Monitoring, where throughout 6 weeks the discomfort doctor injected my groin upwards of 70 times with steroids as well as Novocain. Nothing would help the pain so I decided to explore myself. The internet is a terrific tool to release an examination.

- I googled complications from rupture surgical treatment and also was surprised at what I discovered.
- It was only then that I figured out that a Hernia Mesh kit should have been put inside of me. I went back to the surgeon and also described what I located.
- Only then did he inform me that he had actually put a Synthetic Mesh within me as well as told me that, it was not the mesh, because the mesh is inert and also my issue involves the nerves in my groin.

I tried to go back to function because I couldn't pay for not getting an income, however the discomfort was so unbearable that I wound up in the ER. The medical professional in the emergency room did a CT scan just to find absolutely nothing. That is because the mesh is transparent and can not be seen on X-rays.

The physician in the ER told me that I probably had Diverticulitis and that I needed to follow up with a GI expert. That examination returned unfavorable additionally. I chose to get a consultation from another specialist as well as asked if he can eliminate the mesh from within me.

**He told me that he could not get rid of the mesh but might do an exploratory surgical procedure to see if the nerves were sewn up.**

This doctor did cut and connect off among the nerves in my groin and also believed that it would alleviate my suffering. After returning to him for 6 weeks in unbearable pain he told me that there was absolutely nothing else he could provide for me. So I was on my very own. I continued to be in unbearable discomfort and still attempted to function.

**I continued to search for a cosmetic surgeon who understood what was taking place to me.**

I lastly did find a doctor in one more state and he accepted see me. When he analyzed me he informed me that he recognized precisely what was wrong with me but to be sure sent me to have an MRI. I went back to this cosmetic surgeon and he showed me the problem.

There it was a solidified synthetic mesh. This specialist told me that he has been eliminating these products for two decades because of troubles comparable to mine. So lastly after nearly 2 years of intolerable pain I discovered a person who could provide me some solutions.

The surgical procedure to eliminate the mesh took 3 1/2 hours. When I woke up in the recovery room, the specialist was at my bedside. He informed me that he was sorry which I would be in pain for the remainder of my life.

The specialist discussed to me that he had removed a balled up item of concrete from my groin, that the mesh had solidified and balled up, and also had actually enveloped the other 2 primary nerves in my groin. In order to get the mesh out the nerves had to be severed. He explained to me that the mesh was so hard, that when I moved it was imitating a saw and also cutting into the surrounding cells.

**I had a 3 inch wound in my pelvic flooring together with numerous smaller cuts and tears.**

In 2008 I was identified with a degenerative nerve condition, which I think was brought on by the mesh. The discomfort that I endure via each day contains constant burning and pains in my groin as well as top thigh. My groin and upper thigh are a purple and also brown shade because of the nerve problem I currently have. It is a consistent battle each day.

**I must take 3 strong medications Oxycontin, Percocet, and also Tramadol just for the pain alone.**

Every 6 months I need to have superhigh frequency ablation done at the spinal degree were the nerve roots are located. This just to soothes 50 percent of the burning. It is really uneasy for me to rest during the night without the aid of medicine. Because of this product I am no more able to function as a printer. I liked my task; where else can you take 12 different components and also placed them all together as well as make what I thought about art.

I am currently on New Jacket State Handicap, which is about to run out. I have actually requested Social Security Special Needs yet have not heard back from them yet. When I was a young adult, I had a hernia. That hernia was not repaired with mesh, however was stitched back together-- 34 years later on and

also I still have no problems with that said repair work, while the fixing that I had when I was 42 went bad instantly and I currently face a life time of discomfort and also has a hard time due to it.

**All of this I need to go thru because of an item of hernia mesh that was meant to be inert and not cause any kind of problems.**

The mesh that was placed inside of me triggered a lot damages that none of the nerves will certainly ever have the ability to be fixed and will never grow back. I live a life of pain as a result of a product that never had any type of clinical tests and also slipped via the back entrance of what you referred to as the 510K procedure based on the use of predicate gadgets.

**Did you know that the mesh that was within me made use of only sutures as a predicate tool?**

I am left impaired because the FDA thought about surgical mesh matching to stitches and allowed it to be dental implanted in patients like me. After years of individuals reporting troubles and also investigations in to artificial meshes, the FDA released a Public Health Warning.

Regrettably, the warning was only for Synthetic Trans-vaginal meshes that are used in female for Pelvic Body organ Prolapse, Incontinence as well as Bladder Slings, which have actually created issues equally as dreadful as mine. There was no Public Health Notification for the Hernia Meshes. Which are just as tragic and also trigger awful complications for men and woman alike.

In my study I found that in the United States alone there are 750 thousand to 1 million rupture surgical procedures yearly. Stopping working to deal with the hernia mesh concern places too many people in danger. I believe synthetic mesh must not get on the market since it is dangerous and also I have actually proudly taken the obstacle to work to prevent this from remaining to take place to others.

In closing I would much like to say that I am just one face in hundreds of individuals that this has happened to and the sad part of all of it is that I really feel that I might be among the fortunate ones. This committee can change the legislations to improve the security of medical tools and also put individuals first. Surgical mesh and also various other clinical tools ought to be checked for security prior to they are allowed to be dental implanted right into people like myself. We likewise require a national system to track what happens to people like me after devices are implanted, to catch these issues immediately.

*Thanks*