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RETROSPECTIVE REVIEW OF UROGYNAECOLOGICAL SURGERY FOR THE TREATMENT OF PELVIC ORGAN PROLAPSE (POP) IN NORTHERN IRELAND 2008/09 - 2016/17

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Introduction

A current pause on vaginally inserted mesh for POP is in place within the UK. Trends in POP surgery show a decline in overall procedure numbers. Data for Northern Ireland reviewed.

Methods

Hospital Inpatient System (HIS) data pertaining to POP, using vaginal/abdominal mesh, in comparison with non-mesh procedures for the same indications were reviewed. A fresh analysis for numbers of procedures instead of numbers of women was performed. Additionally, new codes and code combinations which were not covered in an original review (3), published for the same time period, were included.

Results

13,157 procedures were performed for POP. The highest volume procedures were:

1. 4,722 – Vaginal excision of Uterus for Prolapse (Q08 with ICD-10 diagnosis code N81)*
2. 2,997 – Anterior and Posterior Colporrhaphy (P23.1)
3. 1,940 – Posterior Colporrhaphy (P23.3 (not with Y02, Y36, Y37, Q01 or Q08))* (*Procedure groups that were not included in original review)

The number of urogynaecological procedures to treat urogynaecological prolapse reduced for all except 2 years from 1,670 procedures in 2008/09 to 1,124 procedures in 2016/17 (Fig.1). This equates to an overall reduction of 33% between 2008/09 and 2016/17. A total 12,536 non-mesh procedures for urogynaecological prolapse and 578 mesh procedures performed over 8 years. A 29% reduction in non-mesh procedures (Fig.2). 76% reduction in mesh insertion procedures (Fig.3).

Conclusions

Prolapse surgery has declined by 1/3 over an 8-year period. This has implications for training in Urogynaecology. Women may now be living with POP or managing it conservatively who would otherwise have chosen surgical treatment in 2008.

Reference

1. Retrospective Review of Surgery for Urogynaecological Prolapse and Stress Urinary Incontinence using Tape or Mesh Experimental Statistics, Northern Ireland, April 2008 - March 2017. Department of Health NI. <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/health/final-mesh-audit-report-18.pdf>. *Acknowledgements - Statisticians in the Hospital Information Branch (HIB), Department of Health NI, Castle Buildings, Stormont.