

## **Improved Patient Outcomes in Laparoscopic Total Extra Peritoneal Inguinal Hernia Repair Using Non-Woven Polypropylene Mesh**

The laparoscopic Total Extra Peritoneal (TEP) approach to inguinal hernia repair is well established with an excellent track record of preventing recurrence long term. Despite this, patient outcomes with regard to comfort and chronic pain remain a challenge. New lighter weight hernia mesh configurations include a non-woven, microfiber (NWMF) polypropylene alternative which has shown promise in improving patient outcomes<sup>1</sup>.

This retrospective review of our rural community hospital experience since 1/08 using a rectangular configuration of NWMF which surrounds the spermatic cord is presented. Ninety four (94) pieces of NWMF mesh were implanted in 84 patients using minimal absorbable tack fixation at Cooper's ligament and, when necessary, high and lateral to the defect.

Follow-up was achieved through patient phone contact and primary physician survey. Of the patients/physicians followed up there was 100% patient satisfaction with no patients/physicians reporting problems with chronic pain or recurrence.

Only 3 patients (5.5%) reported any pain lasting longer than 4 weeks. Ninety six percent of patients had resumed normal activities by four weeks. No mesh related complications occurred.

### **Conclusion**

Having used the TEP procedure for 15 years and the NWMF polypropylene mesh for the past three, the complete patient satisfaction and elimination of chronic pain has been gratifying to achieve. Further and more complete follow-up will be required to define this laparoscopic TEP approach using a lighter weight non-woven polypropylene mesh as the most effective inguinal hernia repair, but at this time it remains my approach of choice.

1) Smietanski, M, et.al., Five-year results of a randomized controlled multi-centre study comparing heavy-weight knitted versus low-weight, non-woven polypropylene implant in Lichtenstein hernioplasty, *Hernia*, volume 15, page 250, May 2011

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Vascular surgeon at Sanford Heart Hospital, Fargo, N.D.

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Chief of Vascular Surgery at James A. Haley Veteran's Medical Center, Tampa, Fla.

**Dennis F. Bandyk, M.D., FACS**  
Chief of Division of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery at USF Health, Tampa, Fla.

**Adam W. Beck, M.D.**  
Assistant Professor of Vascular Surgery at University of Florida College of Medicine, Gainesville, Fla.

**Scott A. Berceci, M.D., PhD**  
Professor of Surgery at University of Florida College of Medicine, Gainesville, Fla.

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Owner of Thoracic Institute of Southwest Michigan, PLC, and attending thoracic surgeon at Battle Creek Health System, Battle Creek, Mich.

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Director of Endovascular Therapies at Greenville Hospital System University Medical Center, Greenville, N.C.

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Thoracic surgeon at Botsford Hospital, Farmington Hills, Mich.

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Professor and Chief of Vascular Surgery at University of Florida College of Medicine, Gainesville, Fla.

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Professor and Chair of Surgery at University of North Texas Health Science Center, Fort Worth, Texas

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Director of Cardiovascular Risk Reduction Program at Greenville Hospital System University Medical Center, Greenville, N.C.

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Surgeon at Shoreline Surgical Services, South Haven, Mich.

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Colorectal surgeon at SOCH Medical Group, PC, Manahawkin, N.J.

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**Leslie Lyness, D.O.**  
Neurosurgery resident at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, Philadelphia, Pa.

**James M. MacNutt, D.O.**  
Neurosurgeon at St. Luke's Neurosurgery Associates, Duluth, Minn.

**John T. Main, D.O.**  
Neurosurgeon at Tulsa Brain and Spine, Tulsa, Okla.

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