

P067 HUMANITARIAN HERNIA SURGERY - 10 YEARS OF PERSONAL EXPERIENCE AND THE SAFETY OF LDPE MOSQUITO MESH

Petr Bystrický¹

¹Nemocnice České Budějovice, Surgery, České Budějovice, Czech Republic

Aim: Many people from low-income countries suffer from late or no treatment of incarcerated hernias. That can cause permanent consequences or even death. Hernia International is a 100% volunteer organisation, delivering humanitarian hernia surgery in the countries of the third world. A LDPE mosquito mesh is widely used. Its safety and full functionality was described.

Material and Methods: A LDPE Mosquito mesh was a subject of testing for a heavy metal content; the same-size piece of a mosquito mesh, and a standard commercial mesh, were tested by spectral photometry. I have had the chance to join 11 international voluntary teams in the years of 2011-2019. More than 1000 procedures were performed, including large inguinoscrotal, incisional, and pediatric hernias. The conditions were often very basic, and a LDPE mosquito mesh and local anaesthesia were used in most adult cases.

Results: The test shows comparable or less presence of heavy metals in the LDPE mosquito mesh, in comparison with a standard polypropylene mesh.

A very low number of early post-op complications, such as haematoma and wound infection, were recorded (less than 1%) in a group of patients operated during voluntary missions. 1-2 local young surgeons were trained in basic hernia procedures.

Conclusions: Hernia International provides a high-quality surgical care to the patients from the developing countries. Using a mosquito mesh is a safe and effective method with a comparable low complication rate but with minimal costs.