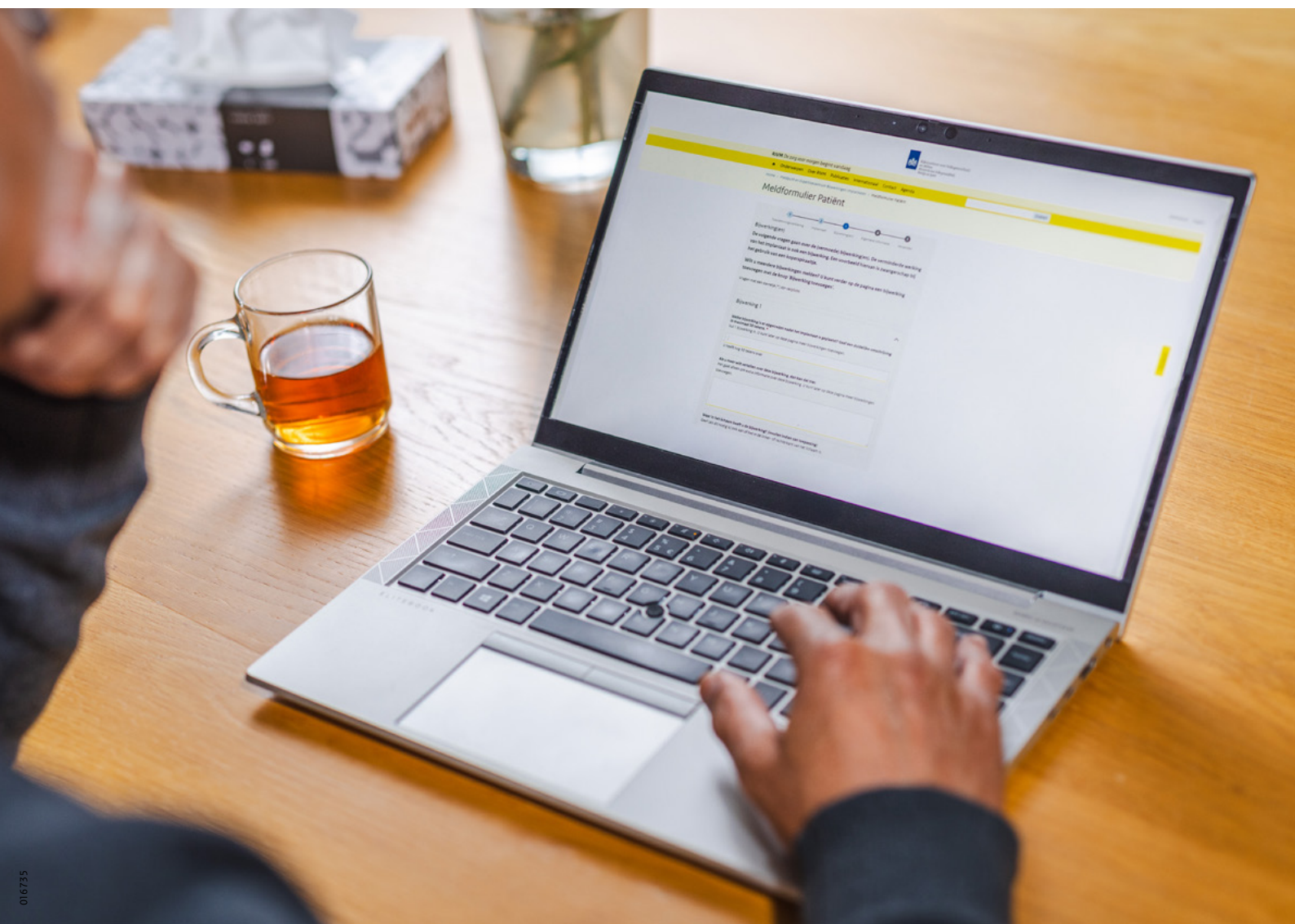




National Institute for Public Health
and the Environment
Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport

Early detection of implant side effects

MEBI annual report 2025



At the Dutch Reporting Centre for Adverse Effects of Medical Implants (MEBI), citizens and healthcare professionals can report health problems that may be related to implants¹. Additional information about MEBI's activities can be found in the final section of this report and the website www.rivm.nl/mebi.

Every year, MEBI publishes its annual report with an overview of reports received and activities carried out in the preceding year. In this report, we look back at 2025.

Overview of reports received in 2025

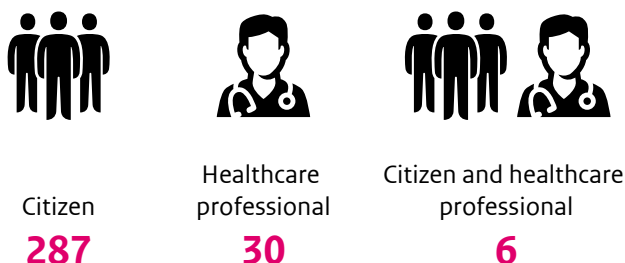
Number of reports

In 2025, MEBI received reports about 323 persons for whom the reporter suspected an association between health problems and an implant.

Figure 1 outlines the reports received in 2025 per reporter: citizen or healthcare professional. Citizens can be either users with health problems or those making a report on behalf of someone else.

It is possible that both a citizen and a healthcare professional submitted a report about the same individual, this is indicated separately in Figure 1. In such cases, both reports are combined into one unique report. If not specified otherwise, in this annual report an overview is given about the unique reports received by MEBI in 2025.

Figure 1. Reports received categorised by type of reporter



The average age of the person concerned in the reports was 38. The youngest was 18 years old and the oldest 89. The majority of people reported about were female (95%).

MEBI staff requested additional information in 90% of the cases to obtain more insight in the reports. Examples of this additional information include but are not limited to data on the reported health problems, the implant, or other specific medical conditions.

Types and numbers of implants

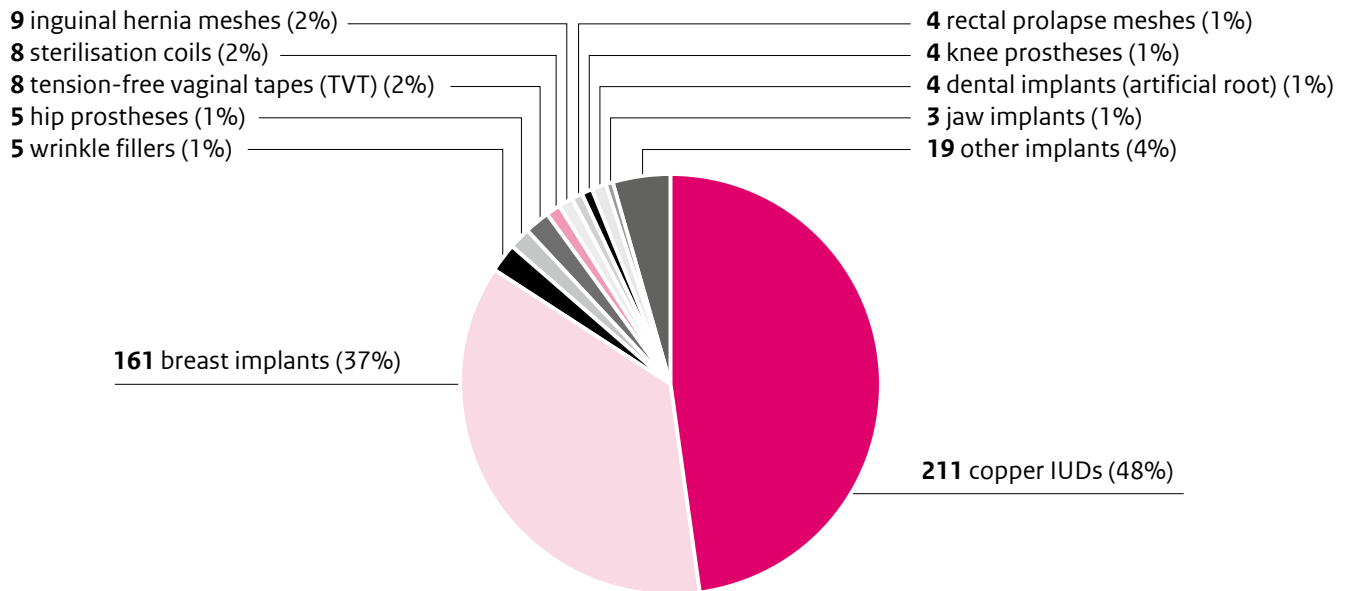
The 323 reports concerned a total of 441 implants, indicating that many reports involved multiple implants. This is primarily explained by the fact that persons with breast implants often have two implants, or have had implants replaced one or more times. Furthermore, if women had multiple copper intrauterine devices (IUDs), all health problems related to these devices could be specified in a single report. Figure 2 outlines the types of implants reported about in 2025.

In 2025, the majority of reports were about copper IUDs (n=193 reports, involving 211 implants), followed by breast implants (n = 75 reports, involving 161 implants). Other types of implants with multiple reports included sterilization coils (8 reports), tension-free vaginal tapes (TVT) (8 reports), inguinal hernia meshes (7 reports), rectal prolapse meshes (4 reports), wrinkle fillers (4 reports), knee prostheses (3 reports), and dental implants (3 reports).

Fifteen implant types were only reported one or two times in 2025. These are categorized as 'other implants', and are highly diverse. Implant types include gynaecological implants (pelvic floor meshes and fallopian tube clips), surgical implants (abdominal wall meshes, cranial bone prostheses, bone-anchored prosthesis, monocryl suture, tendon prosthesis, abdominal aorta graft, hip prostheses, and thorax mesh), active implants (neuromodulator, cochlear implant, and hypoglossal nerve stimulator), jaw implants, and an iodine-125 seed (a small radioactive rod used during surgery to locate a tumour or other site in the body).

¹ An implant is a medical device placed inside the body for a prolonged period of time for medical or cosmetic purposes.

Figure 2. Distribution of reports by type of implant in 2025 (in percentages* and numbers)



* Due to rounding, these percentages do not add up to 100%.

In 2025, citizens most frequently submitted reports about copper IUDs and breast implants, while healthcare professionals mainly submitted reports about copper IUDs. Of the 293 reports made by citizens, 166 (57%) were about copper IUDs and 75 (26%) were about breast implants. Of the 36 reports made by healthcare professionals, 33 (92%) were about copper IUDs. The other three were about a tension-free vaginal tape (TVT), a wrinkle filler, and an iodine-125 seed.

In the spring of 2025, health problems associated with copper IUDs received media attention in the Netherlands. MEBI issued a press release about the number of reports it had received about pregnancies with copper IUDs. This may have contributed to increased awareness of MEBI's existence among women who have (had) a copper IUD and among healthcare professionals who insert and remove copper IUDs.

Types and numbers of health problems

Across the 323 reports, a total of 1530 health problems were reported. Most of the health problems reported were about copper IUDs and breast implants. The total number of health problems attributed to copper IUDs was 663 (1-18 health problems per report), with 133 different types of health problems being reported. The total number of health problems attributed to breast implants was 617 (1-36 health problems per report), with 211 different types of health problems being reported. The ten most frequently reported health problems for these two types of implants are shown in Tables 1 and 2, respectively.

Table 1. Top ten most frequently reported health problems attributed to copper IUDs in 2025

Reported health problems ^a	Number
Heavy menstrual bleeding	59
Full or partial expulsion of the copper IUD	54
Pregnancy ^b	52
Complication of device removal	44
Uterine spasm	26
Embedded device	25
Abdominal pain	19
Device breakage	19
Fatigue	17
Pregnancy with copper IUD ^c	17

^a As with any implant, (health) problems can occur with a copper IUD. This also includes reduced effectiveness of the implant. An example of this is pregnancy while using a copper IUD.

^b These are reported pregnancies in which the copper IUD was no longer in the correct position, or where it was unknown whether the copper IUD was still in the correct position.

^c These are reported pregnancies in which the copper IUD was in the correct position.

Table 2. Top ten most frequently reported health problems attributed to breast implants in 2025

Reported health problems	Number
Fatigue	57
Pain in one or both breasts	28
Arthralgia	28
Memory impairment	24
Alopecia	16
Disturbance in attention	16
Myalgia	14
Brain fog	11
Dry eyes	11
Word finding difficulty ^a	9
Device leakage ^a	9
Palpitation ^a	9

^a The number of reports about these health problems is equal, and therefore all are included in this overview.

With regard to sterilization coils, the health problems that were reported more than once were back pain (3 reports), fatigue (3 reports), abdominal pain (2 reports), and heavy menstrual bleeding (2 reports).

With regard to tension-free vaginal tapes (TVT), and inguinal hernia meshes, most reports concerned pain or problems around the implant site, or general health problems such as musculoskeletal complaints.

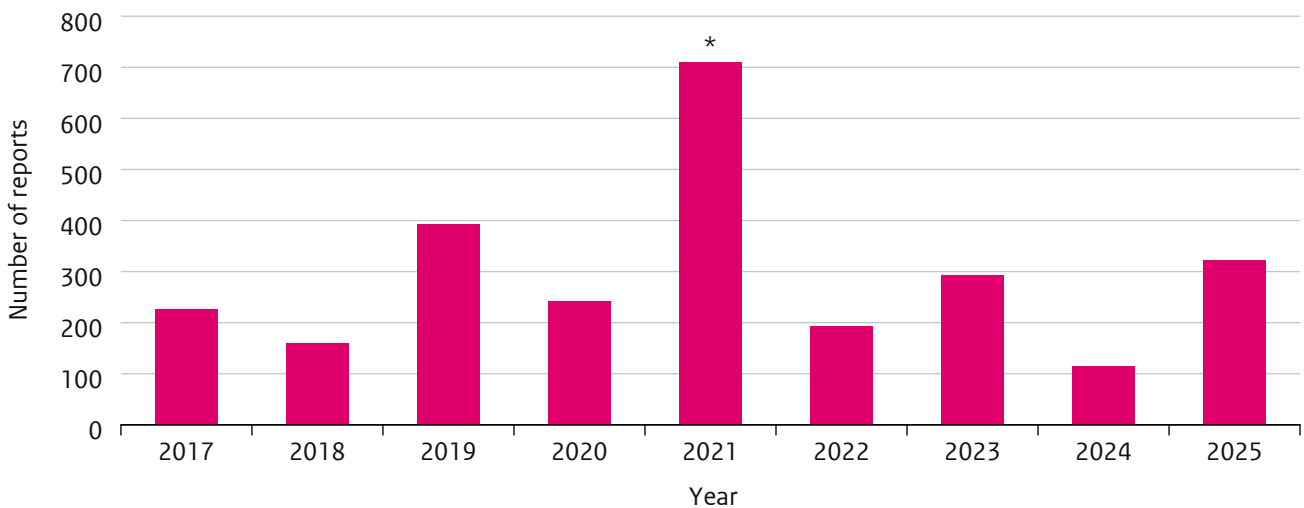
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Number of reports compared to previous years

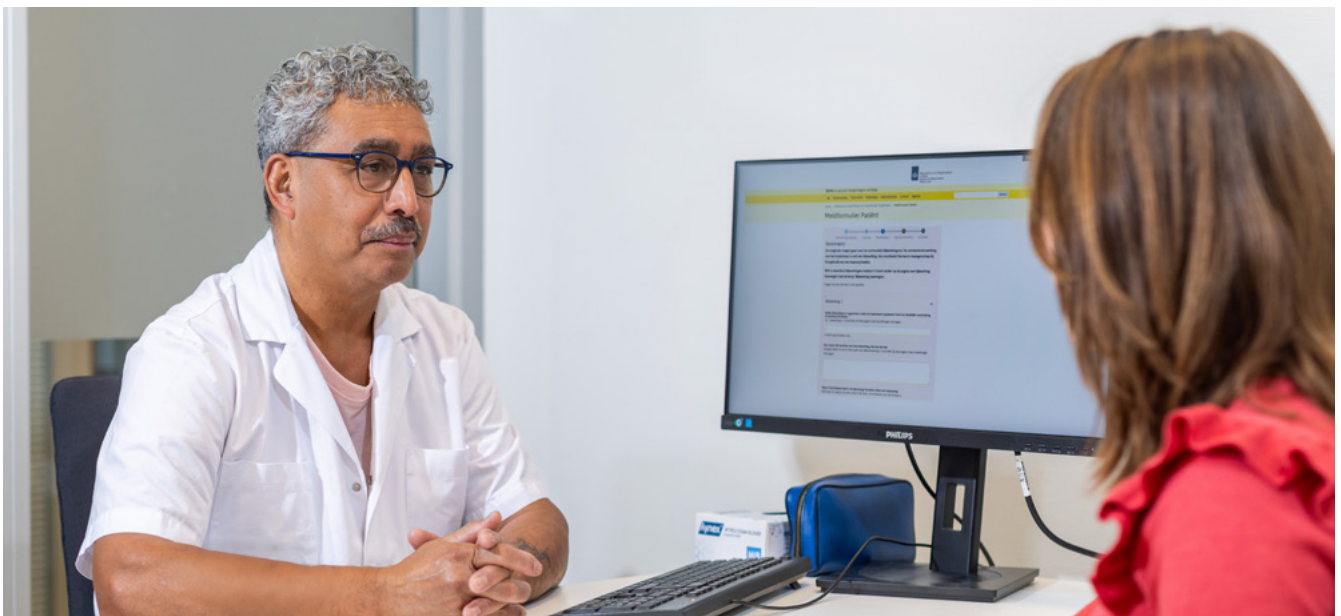
Figure 3 shows the number of reports received by MEBI in previous years. The number of reports in 2025 ranks among the top three years with the most reports since the establishment of MEBI in 2017. This applies to the total number of reports, as well as to the number of reports made by citizens and the number of reports made by healthcare professionals. The number of implants reported on in 2025 is higher than in the previous three years. As in other years, most of the individuals reported on were

female (95%); in the years before 2025, this was similar, on average 95%. This can be explained by the types of implants about which MEBI generally receives the most reports, namely copper IUDs and breast implants. The average age of the persons reported on in 2025 (38 years) was lower than in the previous years (on average 43 years), but similar to 2021 (37 years). In that year, most reports also were about copper IUDs. As in previous years, most reports in 2025 were about copper IUDs and breast implants. MEBI's annual reports of previous years are available on the [MEBI-website](#).

Figure 3. Number of reports received by MEBI per year.



* In 2021 MEBI received, just like in 2025, the most reports about copper IUDs and issued two notifications about this topic. This explains the higher number of reports in 2021 compared to other years



Why does MEBI exist?

The purpose of MEBI is to detect possible side effects associated with implants at an early stage. An implant is a medical device placed inside the body for a prolonged period of time for medical or cosmetic reasons. There are many different types of implants. For example, cardiovascular implants (such as heart valves, pacemakers and stents), breast implants, knee and hip prostheses, gastric balloons, pelvic mesh implants, hernia and scar meshes, wrinkle fillers, dental implants, hearing implants and lens implants.

Like medicines, implants can cause side effects. Side effects are undesirable effects on a person's health (health problems) caused by the implant, such as pain or difficulty when moving. This also includes reduced effectiveness of the implant, for example pregnancy while using a copper IUD. Reporting all health problems is important, as they could be side effects related to implant use. The reports help to ensure that possible side effects are detected as soon as possible.

The MEBI working method

Both healthcare professionals and citizens can report issues with one or more implants to MEBI, by means of an online reporting form at MEBI's website: www.rivm.nl/mebi.

MEBI assesses every report it receives. If more information is needed, the person who made the report may be contacted for additional information. If necessary, MEBI will investigate a suspected side effect in connection with the implant. For example, it may conduct a literature review or interview care professionals and/or other experts. The analysis may concern a new (unknown) side effect, a new aspect of a known side effect or a sudden increase in the number of reports of a known side effect.

The importance of MEBI and of reporting problems

It is important that implants are safe. Reporting to MEBI can contribute to this. By reporting possible health problems, other people can be helped more effectively or at an earlier stage. When many or unusual health problems are received by MEBI, MEBI will be able to detect possible relationships between implants and health problems at an early stage and inform healthcare professionals, patients and the government accordingly.

MEBI publications

MEBI publishes information on the reports it receives on its [website](#) through annual reports, notices, factsheets and alerts.

- **Annual reports:** each year, MEBI outlines which implants and health problems have been reported on, and how many, in an annual report. This way, citizens and healthcare professionals are informed about the reports received by MEBI.
- **Notices:** MEBI spreads knowledge about known risks of implants more widely among healthcare professionals and other stakeholders by publishing notices, so that appropriate action can be taken if necessary. Up to and including 2025, MEBI has issued six notices. These were about a gastric band, the Ancora[®] copper IUD, the IUB[™] Ballerine[®] MIDI copper IUD (2x), wrinkle fillers and Rebound HRD[®] inguinal hernia mesh. In February 2026, MEBI published a [notice about removal problems with the IUB[™] Ballerine[®] MIDI copper IUD](#), following reports received in the first nine months of 2025.

- **Fact sheets:** MEBI provides insights into the reports received about a particular type of implant in its fact sheets. The purpose of these fact sheets is to inform citizens, healthcare professionals and other stakeholders about the number of reports received about that type of implant and what type of health problems have been reported. Up to and including 2025, MEBI has published four fact sheets. Two of those concerned breast implants, one was about mesh implants² and one was about Essure® sterilisation coils. In February 2026, MEBI published a [fact sheet about the health problems related to copper IUDs](#) that were reported to MEBI from its establishment in 2017 up to and including September 30, 2025.
- **Alerts:** MEBI can report on side effect or risks associated with a particular implant and that are unknown or have not been identified before by means of alerts. To date, MEBI has not issued any alerts.

MEBI anonymises all information before publishing it. Once published, the information is available to anyone who is interested, including healthcare professionals, citizens and the Health and Youth Care Inspectorate (IGJ). MEBI actively disseminates its notices, alerts and fact sheets among relevant professional organisations and/or patients' associations.

MEBI uses a reporting system for citizens and healthcare professionals to notify health problems at any time. It is important to ensure that healthcare professionals and citizens actually report suspected side effects of implants and do so as quickly as possible, even if it concerns known side effects. Since MEBI only has information about health problems that have been reported, the number of reports cannot be used to determine how often a side effect occurs with a particular implant. Furthermore, in most cases it is not known how often an implant is placed. Therefore, the MEBI database cannot be used to calculate incidence.

Overview of activities in 2025

In 2025, MEBI ran two campaigns to increase public awareness of MEBI. Information about MEBI was shared in waiting rooms of general practices and health centers, and a social media campaign was launched. Additionally, MEBI introduced a new reporting form to make submitting reports easier and faster. The new form minimizes the number of mandatory questions and omits any that are not essential for the initial assessment of the report, such as the question about the impact of health problems on daily life.

² Mesh implants are sheets, bands or nets made of synthetic material and placed inside the body permanently. They are often made of thread of a synthetic material called polypropylene. Various types of mesh implants are available for the treatment of a variety of conditions, such as pelvic mesh implants, inguinal hernia meshes and abdominal wall meshes.

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