

## **SOGC statement in response to College des Médecins in Quebec’s report on urethral slings**

The SOGC respects the importance of reassessing safety of any procedure or device, if concerns arise. In the absence of new evidence we stand by the 2019 SOGC Urogynaecology Committee Opinion: *No. 387-Mid-Urethral Slings for Stress Urinary Incontinence*.<sup>1</sup> This thorough review, concluded that slings are very effective in the treatment of stress urinary incontinence, but that there is a complication rate of 2-3% and there may be pain in up to 10% of patients with some procedures.

Complications can be minimized with proper training, choosing the right procedure for the patient, and having a sufficient volume of practice.

We support the recommendations made that there are:

- Adequate access to pelvic floor physiotherapy,
- Creation of a patient registry of those undergoing slings with research to document rates of issues and their management
- Better informed consent of patients using a standardized document
- Creation of multidisciplinary centres of excellence to manage complex cases, including specialized nursing and physiotherapy

We call for trans-Canadian collaborations to better track and study outcomes of these procedures, and for Canadian health research granting agencies to support competitive research in this traditionally underfunded area of women’s health.

We are concerned that the burden of health impairment from urinary incontinence and pelvic floor prolapse is high, and access to appropriate conservative treatment is not covered under provincial plans. Pelvic floor disorders are stigmatized and debilitating conditions that require our dedicated attention, and action to ensure quality care for these vulnerable patients.

### **Reference**

1. Clancy A. Committee Opinion No. 387-Mid-Urethral Slings for Stress Urinary Incontinence. J Obstet Gynaecol Can. 2019;41:1389-91. Available from: [https://www.jogc.com/article/S1701-2163\(18\)31042-9/abstract](https://www.jogc.com/article/S1701-2163(18)31042-9/abstract)