

22/02/2011

DE00000593309

Dear Pat Smith,

Thank you for your request of 16 February 2011 under the Freedom of Information Act (2000). Your exact request was:

*" The number of Pelvic Organ Prolapse surgeries carried out in the UK in the last 15 years on women ...*

*... broken down by type of problem presenting, and type of surgery.*

*How many of these operations needed repeating? How many times?*

*What are the side effects of such operations - by type of operation, and type of problem.*

*What are the figures for side-effects for these procedures?*

*Are there any any associated reports or surveys, or other documents especially as to care pathways / plans and success rates.*

*What consideration is given to the fact that POP has an impact on a woman's general life, work life, continence and sex life?*

*How many GP medical certificates were issued to women suffering from the effects of POP, and unable to work because of the pain and discomfort, and problems with continence etc., in the last 10 years?*

*What management advice is given to women with POP who are trying to cope / manage the problem in work?*

*What priority are such problems given, and how is this priority status (or not) arrived at?*

*Is POP given a similar priority to male sexual problems?*

*How is pain and discomfort from a POP assessed?*

*What choice does a woman have as to whether to have surgery or not, especially in the light of the possible need for a repeated operation and possible side-effects (nerve damage, scar tissue, loss of sexual function and continence.)*

*What literature is available to women in the UK re:*

- 1. What prolapse is. Types. Causes.*
- 2. Management of prolapse in general and at work.*
- 3. What NHS care pathways is.*
- 4. Remedies if any.*
- 5. What NHS centres of support can assist, and in what ways.*

*There is very little information out here about this seemingly grossly neglected area of medicine.*

*GPs, although they seem to vary in knowledge and opinion, in general do not seem well-informed on this matter, especially in the way it affects women's lives in general and at work.*

*What information / training is given to GPs re POPs?*

*Where could they access information about POPs?"*

The Department does not hold the information you have requested. However, there are a number of sources in the public domain that may be of use to you. The NHS provides some general information on the following websites:

<http://www.nhs.uk/Search/Pages/Results.aspx?q=pelvic%20prolapse>

<http://www.evidence.nhs.uk/search.aspx?t=pelvic%20prolapse>

The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) has a series of patient information leaflets on recovering well, which are available at:

<http://www.rcog.org.uk/womens-health/clinical-guidance/management-post-hysterectomy-vaginal-vault-prolapse-green-top-46>

<http://www.rcog.org.uk/information-you-after-abdominal-hysterectomy>

<http://www.rcog.org.uk/information-for-you-after-a-laparoscopic-hysterectomy>

<http://www.rcog.org.uk/information-for-you-after-pelvic-floor-repair-operation>

<http://www.rcog.org.uk/information-for-you-after-a-vaginal-hysterectomy>

They also provide guidelines on how to assess risk at:

<http://www.rcog.org.uk/understanding-how-risk-is-discussed-healthcare>

With regard to training, pelvic prolapse is specifically mentioned in the GP Curriculum and the RCOG provide core training on this for obstetricians and gynaecologists. This is available at:

[http://www.rcgp-curriculum.org.uk/curriculum\\_documents/gp\\_curriculum\\_statements.aspx](http://www.rcgp-curriculum.org.uk/curriculum_documents/gp_curriculum_statements.aspx)

<http://www.rcog.org.uk/curriculum-module/core-module-18-urogynaecology-and-pelvic-floor-problems>

I hope this is helpful to you. If you have any queries about this email, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

Head of the Freedom of Information Team  
Department of Health  
Room 317

Richmond House  
79 Whitehall,  
London  
SW1A 2NS

Email: [freedomofinformation@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:freedomofinformation@dh.gsi.gov.uk)

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner (ICO) for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Department. The ICO can be contacted at:

The Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

Jamie Scott

Freedom of Information Officer  
Department of Health

[freedomofinformation@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:freedomofinformation@dh.gsi.gov.uk)

**Please note: as of 31 March 2011 it will no longer be possible to contact the Department of Health through the DHMail email address. Please visit the [contact page](#) on the Department's website.**