



Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks

SCENIHR

2nd Meeting of the Working Group on Surgical Meshes

Venue: HITEC building, Rue Eugène Ruppert 11, L- 2453 Luxembourg

Meeting room: 02/280

Meeting date: 14 April 2014, starting at 9:00

Minutes

1. Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed the participants. 4 members attended the meeting and 1 representative from DG SANCO B2.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented.

3. Declaration of interests on matters on the agenda

The Chair requested to participants to declare any interest on the matters on the agenda. No declarations of any conflict of interest were made by participants.

4. General discussion on the criteria of selection of external members of the

WG and selection of external experts:

It was agreed by the group that experts are needed in the fields of gynaecology, urology, uro-gynecology and medical devices.

It was mentioned that geographical and gender balance should be taken into account during selecting candidates.

The Chair proposed to have new external members – minimum 1 member in each field of expertise.

The WG based on the above mentioned criteria, selected some experts from the list of the applicants to the specific call for expression of interest because no experts in

surgical meshes were available in the Pool of Advisor or the expert database. The Secretariat will contact them to ask for their specific declaration of interests. Should their declarations comply with the Rules of procedure (no conflict of interest in the field of surgical meshes) the Secretariat will appoint the new candidates.

5. Presentation of the mandate and meshes task force made by Paul Piscoi from DG SANCO B2

B2 representative illustrates the mandate and provided background information on the subject of the opinion.

The points for the discussion, as outlined in the mandate were mentioned: surgical techniques, meshes and surgeon's skills; risks factors.

Possible approaches to the problem and fields for coordination, some outside the scope of SCENIHR were highlighted: measures concerning the devices, guidelines for surgeons, recommendations on patient follow-up

B2 will pass on contacts to Members States and to two European Professional Associations which could be also helpful

The text of the mandate was presented by the Chair. No questions were raised.

6. Discussion about literature search

The group express the need to have literature research in addition to the documentation provided by the relevant Commission department. It will select the studies where access to the raw data is needed, using for the beginning the references provided by the published reports. The working group should define the ToR for the literature search by the end of April 2014.

7. Drafting the table of contents

The table of contents of the opinion was drafted by the group. The table should be checked by the Chair.

8. Timeline for the opinion

- The deadline for the final opinion – January 2015 was confirmed by B2.

9. Any Other Business

Dates of future meetings:

16.05.2014 – audio meeting about terms of reference

June – audio meeting with new members

30.06.2014 – physical meeting