



Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks

SCENIHR

5th Meeting of the Working Group on Surgical Meshes

Venue: Luxembourg

15 September 2014, starting at 9:00

Minutes

1. Welcome and apologies

The Chair and the DHoU welcomed the participants. 5 members were present, 1 excused and 3 joined by audio. Representatives of SANCO B2 joined the meeting by audio.

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.
- The DHoU explained again the issues related to potential conflicts of interest of a number of external experts of the WG previously selected. Following the assessment of the DoI received so far, it was decided that a number of external would be invited to join the WG meetings as 'ad hoc' experts. The role of such experts is limited to testify and give specialist advice on specific issues by providing information and replying to any questions only (in written and oral form). Such experts can be invited to participate in working group meetings and hearings on ad hoc basis for limited time. They cannot be appointed rapporteur, and they do not have voting rights. The WG was agreed on the participation of these members for specific sections of the WG when their specific expertise is judged as needed.
- It is of outmost importance, to strike the best balance between the best expertise vs. conflicts of interests, between independence and other core values as the delivery of opinions of good quality.

4. Discussion on the mandate

The representative of SANCO B2 provided the experts with additional information regarding the mandate and answered to their specific questions. The focus of the opinion should be on gynaecology.

5. Literature search/review: defining key terms

It was agreed by the members that there are some recent papers/meta-analysis available already which could be reviewed; the WG will refer to these in the opinion. There is no need to launch a literature review exercise which would be too time consuming.

6. Draft Opinion: table of contents, contributions received, distribution of tasks

The WG appointed two rapporteurs of the opinion.

The group discussed technical matters and the table of contents (ToC) was updated. Different tasks have been distributed among the WG members. The tasks are listed in the updated table of contents (ToC). All contributions have to be submitted to the Secretariat by mid of October. The new draft of the opinion including all the contributions received by that time will be discussed during an audio meeting on 04/11/2014 (starting at 13:00, Lux time).

7. Timeline

The updated draft of the opinion should be circulated by 15/10.

8. Any Other Business

- Next audio meeting: 04/11/2014.
- Next physical meeting: 02/12/2014.