

News story: Government announces strict rules for the use of vaginal mesh

The use of vaginally inserted surgical mesh for stress urinary incontinence will be paused until a set of conditions to reduce the risk of injury are met.

Vaginally inserted meshes will only be used when there is no alternative and after close and comprehensive consultation between patient and clinician, with rigorous oversight and governance at all times.

The Independent Medicines and Medical Devices Safety Review made the interim recommendation following a programme of engagement with patients and patient groups.

The independent review was set up in February and is being chaired by Baroness Julia Cumberlege. Its aim is to review what happened in each of the cases of primodos, sodium valproate and surgical mesh, including whether the processes pursued to date have been sufficient and satisfactory.

It also recommended that the pause should be extended to include vaginally inserted mesh to treat pelvic organ prolapse, and that the pause should be implemented through a high vigilance regime of restricted practice.

In taking this decision, ministers sought advice from the Chief Medical Officer and senior clinicians in the health system.

NHS England is now working with other health agencies to pause procedures quickly and safely. A clinical advisory group has been established to ensure that appropriate measures are put in place to give effect to the high vigilance programme.

NHS England and NHS Improvement have written to providers to ensure that provider medical directors and nurse directors are equipped with advice and guidance to ensure that clinicians can support patients to make clear decisions about their treatment.

Health Minister Lord O'Shaughnessy said:

The department's top priority is patient safety, and we have therefore immediately accepted Baroness Cumberlege's recommendation.

Our new approach, with a high vigilance programme of restricted practice, will radically reduce the number of women have vaginal meshes inserted, and ensure that when it does happen, it is only after close consultation with their clinician and with extremely

thorough clinical oversight and governance.

Mental Health and Inequalities Minister Jackie Doyle-Price said:

We need to put in place a consistent, high quality service that meets the conditions set out by Baroness Cumberlege.

Only then can women be confident when they are considering an operation to treat pelvic organ prolapse or stress urinary incontinence – conditions that cause not just physical discomfort but long lasting psychological effects.

[News story: Royal Navy sailor killed during World War 1 is honoured as he is laid to rest](#)

Able Seaman (AB) James Cameron Robertson, Anson Battalion, Royal Naval Division has finally been laid to rest after he was killed during World War 1. AB Robertson was buried at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) Orchard Dump Cemetery in France earlier today, Wednesday 11 July 2018.

The service, organised by the MOD's Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre (JCCC), part of Defence Business Services, was conducted by the Reverend Andrew Hillier RN. The Royal Navy provided the bearer party and firing party for the ceremony.

Two buglers from the Royal Navy played during the service, Crown Copyright, All rights reserved

Nicola Nash, JCCC said:

Being able to give a name to this brave sailor has been incredibly rewarding. Attending the service today to see the culmination of months of hard work was truly an emotional experience. We will remember them.

AB Robertson joined the Royal Navy in October 1914. After completing his training, he was drafted into the Hood Battalion in July 1915. He went on to serve in Gallipoli and Northern France, being wounded several times during the war. In January 1917, he joined the Anson Battalion and it was during fierce fighting, when the village of Gavrelle was captured, that AB Robertson

lost his life on 28 April 1917. AB Robertson was aged 28.

Captain Keri Harris, Naval Attaché to France raises a salute in honour of AB Robertson, Crown Copyright, All rights reserved

For a century AB Robertson's final resting place was unknown to his family. However, when construction work began on the outskirts of the village of Gavrelle the remains of a British sailor were uncovered. Alongside were a small number of artefacts, Anson Battalion shoulder titles that were still attached to the uniform and shoulder titles for both the Hood Battalion and RND, which were found in one of his pockets.

Royal Naval Division shoulder title that was discovered in one of AB Robertson's pockets, Copyright Commonwealth War Graves Commission, All rights reserved

Further research undertaken by the JCCC showed that the location of the soldier was exactly where the Anson Battalion had been stationed during the capture of Gavrelle on 28 April 1917. The dedicated team narrowed down the list of possible candidates to 2 men. Their descendants were traced and DNA testing came back positive for James Cameron Robertson. 81-year-old nephew Frank Treasurer was the match and he attended today's service.

Nephew Frank Treasurer standing with his wife and members of the Royal Navy beside the grave of AB Robertson, Crown Copyright, All rights reserved

Frank Treasurer, nephew said:

Today was a sad and poignant day, however it was also a celebration of James and his comrades' courage and bravery. We were very glad to be here today to witness him finally being laid to rest.

Nephew Frank Treasurer places a poppy at the headstone of his uncle, Crown Copyright, All rights reserved

James Robertson was born on 21 April 1890 in Charles Street, Aberdeen. He was the eldest of 6 siblings and was listed in the 1911 census as being a shop assistant.

WO1 Darren Wearing, who was leading the Royal Navy today said:

It was an absolute honour and a privilege to have been part of today's proceedings. I'm proud that I have been able to lay a fellow sailor to rest along with all his other shipmates. I'm extremely proud of all my staff and Naval Ratings that took part today, they ensured that James had the best send-off possible in the high standards and traditions of the senior service.

Steve Arnold, CWGC:

I was honoured to be able to recover Able Seaman Robertson from the battlefield where he lay for 100 years and privileged to be here today to see him laid to rest alongside his comrades. We will care for his grave here at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Orchard Dump Cemetery forever.

12-person gun salute provided by the Royal Navy in honour of AB Robertson, Crown Copyright, All rights reserved

A new headstone bearing AB Robertson's name has been provided by the CWGC.

Headstone for Able Seaman (AB) James Cameron Robertson, Crown Copyright, All rights reserved

[Government response: Minister for Africa welcomes peace agreement between Ethiopia and Eritrea](#)

Minister for Africa welcomes peace agreement between Ethiopia and Eritrea – GOV.UK

Harriett Baldwin, Minister of State for Africa, has welcomed the Joint Declaration of Peace and Friendship between Ethiopia and Eritrea.



Commenting on the Joint Declaration of Peace and Friendship between Ethiopia and Eritrea signed on 9 July, Minister of State for Africa, Harriett Baldwin said:

In agreeing the Joint Declaration on 9 July, Prime Minister Abiy and President Isaias have taken a momentous step towards building a lasting peace between Ethiopia and Eritrea. This historic agreement

will mark the end of 20 years of conflict and greatly strengthen the political and economic ties that will benefit not just the populations of both countries but also enhance security and prosperity across the Horn of Africa.

The UK remains a steadfast partner to the region and stands ready to provide support to both parties as they work through the details necessary to implement the agreement. We call on other countries of the region and beyond to likewise lend their support.

Further information

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Thank you for your feedback