

**P149 THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON TACKOMESH
RANDOMISED CONTROLLED TRIAL COMPARING SPIRAL-
TACK MESH-FIXATION DEVICES IN LAPAROSCOPIC
INCISIONAL HERNIA REPAIR USING THE MANCHESTER
TECHNIQUE**

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Aim: Provide a report on all patients who underwent laparoscopic incisional hernia repair as part of the TACKoMesh RCT prior to unblinding of treatment arms.

Material and Methods: Trial recruitment was for primary incisional hernia with a defect diameter of 3–10cm. 63 patients (target 74-136) were operated on prior to the outbreak of COVID-19. Post-operative pain is the primary trial outcome.

Surgery was performed with either spiral-tack mesh-fixation device (Protack (permanent) or Reliatack (absorbable)), Symbotex IPOM mesh, and fascial closure with no 1 Maxon suture(s) using extracorporeal knot ties – the Manchester Technique.

Data was collected on trial forms and lifestyle questionnaires (SF-36 and CCS). All data were explored and described in RStudio v1.4.1106.

Results: Patients were aged 36-80 and 36(57.1%) patients were male. Mean preoperative BMI was 30.91(sd5.11,range21.15–43.93).

Mean operating time was 80.81(37.34,20-240)minutes. In 13(20.6%) patients multiple hernia defects were identified. A good degree of fascial closure was achieved in all patients using a median of 3(IQR 2.0-3.5)knots.

Median mesh-fixation time was 286(159.5-428.0)seconds and a mean 25.24(5.49,14-41)tacks/patient were used. Median length of hospital stay was 3.5(2.0–6.0)days.

Patients were asked “Please indicate on this scale [VAS 0–10] the pain that you currently experience from your incisional hernia during activity?”. Median responses for Day0/pre-op, Day1, Day6, Day30 and Day365 were 4.5, 8.0, 6.0, 3.0 and 1.5 respectively.

At one year, 7(11%) patients had experienced hernia recurrence and 33(52%) post-operative seroma.

Conclusions: Target recruitment was not possible owing to COVID-19. The Manchester Technique has comparable recurrence rates. Reported pain increases post-operatively but is reduced at post-operative day30 and day365.