

Statement on Morcellation

Dear ESGE member,

On 17 April 2014 the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in the USA released a press report to 'discourage the use of the power morcellator'.

<http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm393689.htm>

The ESGE recognizes the need to inform patients properly to their benefit about minimal invasive procedures. Although the risk of a presumed fibroid being a sarcoma is considered very small, morcellation may upstage a uterine sarcoma confined to the uterus by spreading the sarcoma cells in the abdominal cavity. The FDA has based its standpoint on quotes from an FDA related radiologist.

As abandoning power morcellation of fibroids can seriously affect the minimal invasive approach in surgery for women, the literature on this subject must be consciously reviewed to estimate the extent of the risks. This will provide adequate information to counsel our patients who can decide with their surgeon on the surgical approach.

The ESGE has convened a committee who will prepare a review paper on morcellation of fibroids.

The following clinical questions will be addressed:

- What is the number and the nature of the risks of (presumed) fibroid morcellation with regards to:
 - Direct injuries to intestine and vessels during morcellation
 - Leiomyosarcoma
 - Parasitic fibroids in the abdominal cavity
- How can the risk of a presumed leiomyoma being a sarcoma be estimated in individual cases using (advanced) imaging techniques for better counselling?
- How can spreading of fibroid chips by morcellation in the abdominal cavity be prevented?

Based on the best available evidence, recommendations will be proposed to possibly prevent abovementioned complications. If crucial knowledge is lacking, future directions for research are proposed.

The review paper on morcellation will be published on the ESGE website and the ESGE journal Gynaecological Surgery and presented during scientific meetings.

In the meantime, patients should be informed about the possible harmful effects of morcellation and on the other hand of the rarity of the event.

ESGE Directors and Executive Board