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18th February 2018

Deputy Daly
Leinster House
Dublin 2.

PQ Ref 5543/19To ask the Minister for Health the number of women that have died here in the past decade within a year of having hysterectomies by morcellation.**

Dear Deputy Daly,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The HSE, utilising its HIPE system, would record the number of women discharged who underwent hysterectomy procedures. As part of the construct of HIPE, three procedure codes recording surgical activity related to hysterectomies include morcellation as one of the descriptor parameters. These procedures are typically partial or total hysterectomies in which laparoscopic abdominal surgery was utilised. However it would not be the case that morcellation was performed in all of the cases coded against these procedures, as morcellation may not always have been clinically required or appropriate.

Discharge figures for the last ten years under these three procedure codes are as follows 2009 – 96, 2010 – 185, 2011 – 147, 2012 – 198, 2013 – 233, 2014 – 275, 2015 – 371, 2016 – 463 and 2017 – 505. This increase in figures over the years represents a shift throughout surgical services from open abdominal surgery to laparoscopic surgery where clinical feasible and appropriate.

However, it is not possible for the HSE to provide the number of women that have died in the past decade within a year of having a hysterectomy that may have involved morcellation as this data is not currently recorded or correlated by the HSE.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary-Jo Biggs'.

**Mary-Jo Biggs,
General Manager, National Women and Infants Health Programme**