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23rd April 2019

Re. PQ 9215/19:

To ask the Minister for Health if HSE policy states that information regarding the fact that the use of morcellators during fibroid surgery may spread cancer and decrease long-term survival of patients due to the fact uterine tissue may contain unsuspected cancer, must be shared by the consulting doctor with patients when considering surgery with the use of these devices.

Dear Deputy Daly

While minimally invasive surgery conveys several significant advantages over open surgery for women with fibroids, the use of Laproscopic Power Morcellators (LPC) during these surgeries poses a risk due to the potential presence of unsuspected sarcoma in this population. The FDA continues to caution against the use of LPMs in the majority of women undergoing myomectomy or hysterectomy for treatment of fibroids. The Agency also continues to recommend that the advantages and risks of using LPMs during fibroid surgery be thoroughly discussed between the patient and physician before surgery. The FDA continues to actively encourage and engage in research to evaluate outcomes for a range of treatment options for fibroids and support the development of safer alternatives for providing a minimally invasive approach.

This issue is listed for discussion with the NCCP Clinical Leads for Surgical Gynaecology Oncology at their next meeting which is scheduled for May 2019

Yours sincerely



Dr Jerome Coffey MD FRCPI FRCR FFRCSI
Director, National Cancer Control Programme