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 (sd 5.11, range 21.15-43.93).

Mean operating time was 80.81 (37.34-204) 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 day 30 and day 365.