Twitter thread by Amy Coopes, reporting from #RANZCOG19 for the Croakey Conference News Service

Amy Coopes @coopesdetat

We are now hearing from Ranee Thakar on lessons from mesh #RANZCOG19

9:11 AM · Oct 14, 2019 · Twitter Web App

1 Retweet 2 Likes

Amy Coopes @coopesdetat · Oct 14

Replying to @coopesdetat
Thakar is a clinician and president of the International Urogynaecological Association. Reflects on dramatic shifts from the time she trained, in procedures, the relationship with patients. Confusion, defensiveness #RANZCOG19

Amy Coopes @coopesdetat · Oct 14

Replying to @coopesdetat
How did mesh become a 4 letter word. Why did this happen? Why did patients feel that we were not protecting them? #RANZCOG19

Amy Coopes @coopesdetat · Oct 14

Replying to @coopesdetat
Why couldn’t patients talk to us? Why did they resort to social media. Litigation, mistrust the legacy. Do we stop innovating? #RANZCOG19

Lessons from mesh

Not given all treatment options
Not told about complications
Not recognise symptoms of complications
Information not available easily
Specialist centres needed
Reporting needed to be improved
Surgeons should have the right skills

Screenshot
Amy Coopes 💬 @coopesdetat · Oct 14
Replying to @coopesdetat
Thakar is taking us through the long history of mesh, which dates back to the 1930s. 'What follows is really a tale of travesty' she says, of the flooding of the market with mesh products after early recalls 20 years ago
#RANZCOG19

Amy Coopes 💬 @coopesdetat · Oct 14
Replying to @coopesdetat
History of regulation. Has resulted in a 65% reduction in the products on offer to patients  #RANZCOG19

Amy Coopes 💬 @coopesdetat · Oct 14
Replying to @coopesdetat
Thakar discussing the role of industry partners, and fact that TVT RCTs were done after, not before formation of these relationships - is this appropriate and how does it influence reported outcomes  #RANZCOG19

Amy Coopes 💬 @coopesdetat · Oct 14
Replying to @coopesdetat
Easy to perform, quicker recovery, perceived as better for our patients, Thakar says of how mesh attained popularity without a robust evidence base. Industry marketing had a +++ role  #RANZCOG19
Amy Coopes @coopesdetat - Oct 14
Replying to @coopesdetat
Where are we now, and who is responsible? #RANZCOG19

Who is missing in this picture? The patient, who ought to be at the centre of our care, our systems, their design and delivery, says Thakar #RANZCOG19

Thakar reflecting on what needs to change on the regulatory front. The fragmentation of this globally, when things ought to be harmonised (and mandatory rather than voluntary). The uneasy ($$$) relationship between industry and academics must be interrogated too #RANZCOG19
Thakar calls for a paradigm re-shift. Industry and clinicians must operate at arms length. In mesh scenario she says it must be remembered that it was clinicians who asked for an alternative, who were unhappy with what was on offer, who drove this #RANZCOG19

Thakar says for clinicians, it must be all about the right operation for the right person at the right time. High volumes result in better outcomes, simulation has a role #RANZCOG19
Litigation is on the rise. Mostly for stress incontinence rather than prolapse. 88% of procedures found to be done by non-board certified personnel #RANZCOG19

Common themes from all the international reports on mesh. IUGA statement #RANZCOG19
Amy Coopes 🌐 @coopesdetat - Oct 14
Replying to @coopesdetat
Thakar's take home messages from mesh. 'Otherwise this speciality will be dead' #RANZCOG19