Supplemental material

BMJ Publishing Group Limited (BMJ) disclaims all liability and responsibility arising from any reliance placed on this supplemental material which has been supplied by the author(s)

BMJ Open

Supplementary data

Search terms

The search terms used for each database were:

1. quality of life.ab,ti.
2. experience.ab,ti.
3. survey.ab,ti.
4. qualitative.ab,ti.
5. 1 or 2 or 3 or 4
6. Pelvic organ prolapse.mp. or Pelvic Organ Prolapse/
7. Surgical mesh.mp. or Surgical Mesh/
8. 6 and 7
9. Vaginal mesh.mp
10. Transvaginal mesh.mp
11. TVT.mp or transvaginal tape.mp
12. 8 or 9 or 10 or 11
13. 5 and 12

Supplemental material

BMJ Publishing Group Limited (BMJ) disclaims all liability and responsibility arising from any reliance placed on this supplemental material which has been supplied by the author(s)

BMJ Open

Table: Amalgamated CASP and COREQ quality appraisal

Domain/item & guide questions / Studies	*Interviewer/facilitator, training, relationship with interviewees*	*Methodological orientation or theory*	*Method appropriate to aims?*	*Interview guide*	*Rigour and reflexivity of analysis*	*Derivation of themes*	*Statement of findings*
Brown 2020 [27]	Sole author; nurse & lived experience of mesh. No relationship but experience disclosed to interviewees.	Hermeneutic phenomenology; interpretation of lived experience.	Yes	No detail	Used framework; single coder; respondent validation; some reflexivity.	From data.	Largely descriptive, but met aims.
Cumberlege (chair) 2020 [16]	Independent enquiry. Panel asked questions; written testimonies also used. No relationship with interviewees.	Legal: evidence gathering.	Yes	N/A but full transcript.	N/A: no data analysis.	N/A	Full summary of findings, and women with mesh complications involved in recommendations.
Dibb et al. 2023 [30]	One author; no details of training or relationship with interviewees.	Thematic analysis.	Yes	Some detail	Little detail; some themes are close to question topics; some reflexivity.	From data.	Positive and negative aspects described and extensive use of quotations.
Dunn et al. 2014 [33]	Two researchers; no further detail.	Qualitative description, no inference.	Yes	Two open-ended questions supplied.	Multiple coders & respondent validation; little description of analytic process; no interpretation by design; little reflexivity.	From data.	Describes women's experience in three trajectories.
Huntington et al. 2019 [35]	No interview: women submitted personal accounts.	Inductive: thematic analysis	Yes	Prompts for written account described.	Little description but thematic analysis method used; no mention of reflexivity.	From data.	Answer research questions but without critical analysis.

Izett-Kay et al. 2020 [31]	Free text on postal questionnaire or phone sampling. Some respondents might have been patients of authors.	"Interpretivist" approach; inductive; thematic analysis	Yes	Single question supplied.	Two coders and team discussion; little description of analysis; no reflexivity but mention of possible unconscious bias.	From data.	Findings clearly described; theme titles not very descriptive.
McKinlay & Oxlad 2022 [36]	Written submissions to government enquiry. No relationship.	Deductive and inductive thematic analysis.	Yes	N/A	Detailed description of analysis, using biopsychosocial framework. No reflexivity by design.	From data, then grouped.	Clearly reported with recommendations.
Toye et al. 2023 [32]	Data collection described in related paper; no details of interviewers or possible relationship.	Reflexive thematic analysis.	Yes	Example questions in text, developed with PPI contribution.	Detailed description: multiple coders; PPI involvement in analysis; reflexivity described.	From data.	Full account with supplementary data; interpretation of findings to draw higher level lessons.
Uberoi et al. 2021 [34]	Data collection by trained and experienced authors, avoiding those who knew interviewees.	Deductive and inductive content analysis.	Yes	Interview guide supplied.	Detailed description; multiple coders; no mention of reflexivity.	From data, grouped by interview prompts.	Themes literal rather than latent meanings, perhaps because used prompts as themes.

Key: N/A not application; PPI patient and public involvement