

# **Patient information**

## **EHS Hernia Prevention Registry**

**Registration of all patients with an abdominal surgery**  
**Focussing on abdominal wall closure and the prevention of incisional hernias**

Dear patient,

We invite you to participate in a voluntary registry about abdominal wall closure and hernia prevention. Your participation will help us improve surgical techniques and patient care.

### **What is an incisional hernia?**

Incisional hernias are a common complication that can develop after abdominal surgery. They occur when a cut in the abdomen does not heal properly and a weakness in the abdominal wall arises. They occur in 15-20% of operations involving abdominal incisions and may appear months or even years after the original surgery. The most reported symptom is a bulge near a scar in the abdomen, which is often more prominent when you strain your muscles: standing up, lifting a weight, or coughing. They can also cause discomfort, pain, and potentially require additional surgery to repair. Patients with certain risk factors are more likely to develop an incisional hernia. These include obesity, diabetes, use of specific medications like immunosuppressants or steroids, and smoking

### **What is the registry?**

Currently, there are multiple medically accepted techniques for closing the abdominal wall after surgery. In addition, it has become apparent in recent years that certain methods and techniques have advantages for specific patient situations. However, the increasing number of techniques and materials used also makes it more and more challenging to make a scientifically based decision as to which method provides the best results for which patient. Such questions can only be answered if the procedures used in the various clinics are systematically recorded and stored in a database, and the surgical success is tracked in follow-up procedures.

To make this possible, the European Hernia Society (EHS) has developed a quality assurance program for abdominal wall closure and hernia prevention. This measure aims to reduce the number of incisional hernias. To this end, the participating

hospitals enter the data of all operations performed into a central database. This can be found at <https://ehs-prevention.com/>.

Our registry aims to:

- Compare different closure methods
- Understand which techniques and materials lead to fewer complications
- Identify the most effective approaches to prevent incisional hernias

### **What Does Participation Mean?**

- Your participation is completely voluntary
- Your current treatment will not change
- We will collect information from your medical records
- You can withdraw consent at any time without explaining why

### **What Information Will We Collect?**

We will collect comprehensive medical information about your surgical experience, including:

- Patient health history relevant to hernia risk
- Details of current surgical procedure, focusing on abdominal wall closure technique
- Information about your recovery
- Follow-up assessments according to our standard surgical center schedule

### **Data Protection**

For data protection, the data entered can only be read by the clinic entrusted with your treatment. The entry into the register is initially pseudonymized, i.e., coded and without indication of name, date of birth, or initials, so that the assignment of the data record (e.g., in case of revocation for deletion of the data record) is only possible for your treating clinic. The data will be kept confidential at all times. The data for analysis is anonymized, evaluated, and published by a scientific advisory board. A personal reference can, therefore, no longer be established.

The legal basis for the data processing is your voluntary consent (Article 6, General Data Protection Regulation). All data collected in the Registry will be hosted in compliance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of 27 April 2016 (hereinafter, 'GDPR') by Olyro GmbH, an independent software solution engineering company, which will act as the Data Processor. The server hosting the Registry is owned by Hetzner Online GmbH, located in Falkenstein, Germany, which will serve as a Data Subprocessor. Hetzner Online GmbH is certified with ISO 27001.

You may revoke your respective consent in writing or verbally at any time without giving reasons and without incurring any disadvantage. If you withdraw your consent, no further data will be collected, and your data record will be deleted.

**Why Participate?**

While there's no immediate personal benefit, your participation will help improve surgical techniques and patient care for future patients.

Thank you for considering supporting this important research!

**Responsible:**

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