**The impact of abdominal wall closure technique on incidence of incisional hernia in kidney transplantation**

Incisional hernias, or swellings of the abdominal scar after surgery, remain problematic especially after transplant surgery. This is because they can cause complications, including trapping of bowel or the transplant. This can cause life threatening emergencies but is at the very least unsightly and uncomfortable for the patient. Transplant patients are especially likely to develop hernias because of the diseases causing the renal failure and the drugs that they take to dampen the immune system. There is evidence from other surgery that the stitching methods that are used to close the wounds might decrease the risk of surgical hernias. This is achieved by placing smaller and more numerous sutures (stitches) in the wound to increase the strength of the repair. However, this has never been tested formally in transplant where it may provide significant benefit. We intend to do some initial investigation of whether using the smaller stitches may provide benefit over more traditional methods that are currently being used. We will look at early complications after surgery but also the rate of hernia formation later. We hope to improve outcomes and reduce complications for our transplant patients by doing this