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Dear colleague,

Despite the large numbers of centres across the UK undertaking Lap VMR only a minority is contributing to research to provide the evidence base to support this practice, and ensure we are offering our patients safe and appropriate treatment options.

CapaCiTY 03 is a multi-centre stepped wedge randomised controlled trial of Laparoscopic Ventral Mesh Rectopexy in adults with obstructive defecation and a high grade obstructing intussusception or trapping rectocele.

You will undoubtedly be aware of the recent publication of a systematic review and clinical guidance for surgery for constipation conducted on behalf of the NIHR CapaCiTY working group and The Pelvic floor Society (<https://doi.org/10.1111/codi.13775> and <https://doi.org/10.1111/codi.13893>). The subsequent ACPGBI national position statement stated that (in relation to CapaCiTY 3) “Given the current concerns regarding mesh related harm all surgeons that utilise this procedure should be encouraged to offer each and every patient the opportunity to be part of such a trial”.

Mindful of the findings of this piece of work and recent adverse publicity about the use of mesh in pelvic surgery, the moral imperative for good quality RCT data on Lap VMR and the role of CapaCiTY 03 in this respect has never been more apparent.

The recent meeting of the CapaCiTY programme steering committee has highlighted the difficulties we are all facing and we want to do all we can to re-invigorate recruitment to this essential study. We need 114 patients and currently have 23 randomised.

We would like to urge all of you who routinely undertake Lap VMR in your pelvic floor practice to come forward and take part in this study. Please contact us by replying to this email to find out how we can help you start recruiting to this trial.

On behalf of the Pelvic Floor Society and the CapaCiTY working group.

Kind regards



**Prof Charles Knowles**  
Chief investigator  
CapaCiTY programme



**Prof Steven Brown**  
CapaCiTY 3 Lead

**Mr Jon Lacy-Colson**  
CapaCiTY 3 Lead

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