



Amanda

"I am angry, frustrated and tired, and wish I had never ever heard of Essure. I really, really want my life back."

"I had the Essure contraceptive coils inserted in June 2013. I didn't want any more children and I asked about tubal ligation, but was advised that there was an extremely long waitlist. However, I was offered a new, nonsurgical, safe, quick and easy procedure. That day in hospital was the start of my decade long nightmare.

The procedure went well enough, and I had a small amount of bleeding and some abdominal pain for a few days, both of which had been expected. At my three-month hysterosalpingogram it was confirmed that tubal occlusion had occurred; I could stop taking the pill and get on with life. Fabulous!

Little did I know that, within a few years, I would be living in a haze of brain fog and dealing with chronic abdominal and vaginal pain, not to mention horrendously sore breasts. What started as a great sex life, deteriorated to the point where there has been no intimacy for more than two years now. My periods go for weeks and are so heavy and clotty, sometimes I cannot even leave the house for fear it is going to flood everywhere, which has happened.

More recently I have been diagnosed with autoimmune conditions, including POTS (postural orthostatic tachy-cardia), [Raynaud's](#) and [Sjogren's syndrome](#). Along with the constant pain and severe fatigue, I deal with ongoing corneal erosions and corneal ulcers, hives and rashes. My face itches and burns and

I have developed sudden intolerances to food, which make the inside of my mouth swell with painful bumps, and causes stomach cramps and bloating so severe it can be difficult to breathe. My teeth are cracking, my gums swell and bleed, and my hair falls out constantly.

I have been trying to get help for years, particularly recently as my health is deteriorating more and more. None of the doctors know about Essure, let alone the issues it has been causing. After a referral to the gynaecology department of a another hospital in June, I tried desperately to explain what Essure is and finally got an appointment for an ultrasound and a pelvic x-ray. However, the pelvic x-ray was cancelled four months later (apparently because they could see that the Essure was fine in the ultrasound). A referral to a different gynaecologist was cancelled, six different appointments were rescheduled, and I finally saw another gynaecologist, who told me that the coils are in the correct position but they can remove my tubes if that is what I want.

My experience shows that nobody knows what they are dealing with and they haven't bothered to research the correct way to remove Essure, or even the correct imaging to ensure that fragments of the coils have not broken off and migrated, or that the PET fibres moved through the uterus and caused inflammation everywhere. I have zero trust in the health system that put these things in me and even less when it comes to removing them.

I just want the health system that implanted these substandard devices to give me a hysterectomy to remove the coils. I am angry, frustrated and tired, and wish I had never ever heard of Essure. I really, really want my life back. I feel like we have been tossed in a corner and forgotten."