



# Kim

*"My doctor vehemently denied that, regardless of the proof and research that I presented to him, my pain and symptoms were 100% not caused by Essure."*

After getting Essure, I experienced daily pain, migraines, and I bled like a 'stuck pig' – the heavy and painful bleeding lasted the whole three years that I had the coils in and continued right up until I had my hysterectomy.

This gynaecological specialist dismissed me numerous times when I saw him post-Essure. I told him I was suffering daily. He told me that the Essure coils were absolutely not the cause of my pain and other symptoms.

For the last appointment I had with him, I went armed with pages and pages of information and research, which validated my fears and concerns with all the symptoms I was experiencing since the Essure procedure. With his prodigious ego, I'm sure you can imagine, that my attempts to advocate for myself offended him to such an extent that he stated that he absolutely was not going to remove my Essure coils that he pushed for me to have.

This doctor vehemently denied that, regardless of the proof and research that I presented to him, my pain and symptoms were 100% not caused by Essure. He diagnosed me with regional pain syndrome instead, essentially said my pain was in my head, and then that was it! This doctor had seen me for a few years by this point.

My GP then went on to organise a referral to another gynaecologist at North Shore Hospital. In my appointment with her, I showed her all the information I had, and it really didn't take long for her to tell me that she would put me on the waiting list for a hysterectomy ASAP.

I had my total abdominal hysterectomy (in the public sector a laparoscopic hysterectomy was not an option) at the end of March 2016.

Since then, I have struggled to get help for an inflamed gallbladder and other symptoms because of my diagnosis for regional pain syndrome.

I see a Professor of Gastroenterology who is well regarded, and he has said I do not have regional pain syndrome. However, because the regional pain syndrome diagnosis is on my record, doctors won't help me or offer surgery that the Professor has recommended. The Professor has said when you open my notes online, the first thing that comes up is my regional pain syndrome diagnosis.

It's very difficult to be treated fairly."

"I have received horrific treatment by my gynaecological specialist. He pushed for me to have the Essure procedure rather than have a tubal ligation following the birth of my twins in 2007.

Prior to Essure, I had also suffered from years with endometriosis, and the gynaecologist who pushed me into having Essure was the doctor who operated on me for the removal of the endometriosis. I underwent three laparoscopic surgeries to remove the endometriosis, but unfortunately, the endometriosis would grow back!

At the same time this gynaecologist implanted the Essure devices, he also inserted a Mirena\* without my consent. I was not told beforehand that he planned to insert a Mirena at the same time, but post-op he explained it was done so the Mirena would ensure that I wouldn't fall pregnant in the first few months afterwards.

\* A Mirena is a progestin-containing intrauterine device – or hormonal IUD – that prevents pregnancy and is sometimes prescribed for heavy menstrual bleeding.