Stress Urinary Incontinence is a condition which causes a leakage of urine during physical activity. Some 20 to 40 percent of women suffer from it. There are a wide range of treatments, from lifestyle changes to transvaginal mesh surgery.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is currently reviewing the safety of transvaginal mesh surgery, which has been used to treat Stress Urinary Incontinence since the 1990s.

Stress Urinary Incontinence occurs when a woman's pelvic tissues and muscles around the bladder are stretched and weakened. It is caused by physical changes such as pregnancy and menopause. A woman's body is left unable to control urine leaks during exercise and physical movements, such as laughing, coughing, sneezing, driving or doing chores.

During transvaginal mesh surgery, surgical mesh is implanted inside the body to provide support for the bladder. Transvaginal mesh surgery is used to treat both SUI and Pelvic Organ Prolapse (POP).

The FDA issued its first public health notification concerning transvaginal mesh complications in October 2008. The agency upgraded the warning on July 13, 2011, reporting new figures showing nearly 10 percent of women who received transvaginal mesh surgery suffered complications within a year. Complications included internal mesh erosion, bleeding, vaginal scarring and pain during intercourse. Many women required corrective surgery and hospitalization while other conditions were unable to be treated.

No transvaginal surgical mesh recall has been issued, but the agency is reviewing the safety of the product and procedure. Lawsuits have been filed against manufacturers.

The Boston, Massachusetts product liability lawyers at Breakstone, White & Gluck specialize in handling cases involving defective medical devices. We represent clients in personal injury matters throughout Massachusetts, from Boston to Worcester to Cape Cod. Learn about your rights for seeking compensation. Contact us today for a free legal consultation at 617-723-7676 or use our contact form.