

BOOK REVIEW

Essure Journey: Concepts, Concerns and Considerations for Hysteroscopic Sterilization

Editors: E. Scott Sills, M.D., Ph.D. (Applied Biotechnology Research Group, University of Westminster, London, UK)

When the Essure permanent birth control system hit the market in 2002, the medical community viewed it as an innovation in permanent female sterilization. Because of its first-in-class design, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration classified it as a high-risk device. This protects the manufacturer from liability. Now, more than a decade after its release, thousands of women who suffered adverse events after implantation demand a ban on the device and the ability to sue for damages.

Essure Journey: Concepts, Concerns and Considerations for Hysteroscopic Sterilization, edited by E. Scott Sills, MD, PhD and published by Nova Science Publishers, is the first book of its kind that aims to provide a complete, balanced medical review on Essure and background on the surrounding controversy.

The book begins with a foreword from renowned consumer-rights activist Erin Brockovich and a preface and chapter overview from Sills. The chapters that follow discuss one patient's experience with Essure, the device's regulatory background, clinical findings on effectiveness, techniques for device removal, Essure injury litigation and the future of hysteroscopic sterilization. Sills' practical experience with Essure — including as an author of peer-reviewed case studies — gives him authority as editor. Experts on both sides of the Essure debate author the chapters.

What sets this book apart from current literature on the device is its holistic approach. Readers can expect to get the whole picture from all angles — from patients, lawyers and scientists. The tone speaks to medical professionals as well as those without a medical background. This unique approach allows the book to reach a wide audience, including doctors, patients, regulatory officials, public health policy advocates, attorneys and others curious about hysteroscopic sterilization.

The danger in editing a book about an emotionally charged topic such as the Essure procedure is that the material may alienate those with contradictory opinions. This does not happen in Sills' book. He is careful to select material that presents the data objectively, and it speaks for itself. One thing that would make this book stronger is the inclusion of a chapter from Bayer, Essure's manufacturer. The only statements and data directly from Bayer have come from FDA panel reviews. But, Bayer's absence from this collection does not detract from its strengths. Because of the shortage of comprehensive reviews on Essure, this book makes a valuable contribution to the literature on hysteroscopic sterilization. The authority of its editor and contributors make this book a trusted resource.

Michelle Y. Llamas is a senior content writer at [Drugwatch](#). She has written about medical procedures, prescription drugs and medical devices for six years. Her work is published in print and online, including in the peer-reviewed **Journal of Palliative Medicine**. She obtained a Bachelor of Arts in English, Technical Communication from the University of Central Florida and is a member of the American Medical Writers Association