

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A partially absorbable mesh comprising:
 - at least one bioabsorbable fiber and at least one biostable fiber;
 - wherein the bioabsorbable fiber and the biostable fiber are combined to form a partially absorbable mesh, the partially absorbable mesh having an X-direction and a perpendicular Y-direction;
 - wherein the partially absorbable mesh comprises pores, and a plurality of the pores are characterized as having an average diameter; and
 - wherein the average diameter of the pores changes by less than 25% after removal of the bioabsorbable fiber.
2. The mesh of claim 1 wherein the bioabsorbable fiber is interwoven with the biostable fiber.
3. The mesh of claim 1 wherein the bioabsorbable fiber reinforces a periphery of the pores.
4. The mesh of claim 1 wherein the biostable fiber forms a biostable mesh, and the biostable mesh is a component of the partially absorbable mesh.
5. The mesh of claim 1 wherein the biostable fiber forms a biostable mesh having a weight of 35-70 g/m², and the biostable mesh is a component of the partially absorbable mesh.
6. The mesh of claim 1 wherein the bioabsorbable fiber is interwoven into a biostable mesh formed from the biostable fiber, where the bioabsorbable fiber is interwoven via a pillar stitch.
7. The mesh of claim 1 which is anisotropic.
8. The mesh of claim 1 wherein the bioabsorbable fiber induces an increased degree of anisotropy in the partially absorbable mesh compared to an anisotropy of the biostable mesh component of the partially absorbable mesh.

9. The mesh of claim 1 having a greater elongation in the Y-direction than in the X-direction when measured at 16 N/cm.
10. The mesh of claim 1 having an elongation in the X-direction when measured at 16 N/cm, the elongation increasing by at least 50% after removal of the bioabsorbable fiber.
11. The mesh of claim 1 wherein the bioabsorbable fiber runs in the X-direction of the mesh.
12. The mesh of claim 1 wherein the bioabsorbable fiber runs in the X-direction of the mesh and does not run in the Y-direction of the mesh.
13. The mesh of claim 1 comprising both colored and uncolored bioabsorbable fiber, where the colored bioabsorbable fiber runs in the X-direction of the mesh and does not run in the Y-direction of the mesh.
14. The mesh of claim 1 wherein the biostable fiber is prepared from a polymer selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polyethylene terephthalate, and polypropylene.
15. The mesh of claim 1 wherein the bioabsorbable fiber has completely dissolved after immersion of the partially absorbable mesh after 12 weeks in a phosphate buffer at 7.4 pH and 37°C.
16. The mesh of claim 1 which is sterile.
17. The mesh of claim 1 which is packaged in a foil pouch.