

FILED

DEC 06 2021

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY
RACHEL E. HARZ
J.S.C.

**IN RE: PELVIC MESH/GYNECARE
LITIGATION**

LAW DIVISION: BERGEN COUNTY

CASE NO. 291
MASTER DOCKET NO.: BER-1-11575-14

CIVIL ACTION

**TVT-O PRE-TRIAL SCHEDULING ORDER
(TENTH AMENDED)**

THIS MATTER having been brought before the Court jointly by Defendants Ethicon, Inc. and Johnson & Johnson (“Defendants”), through their counsel Riker Danzig Scherer Hyland & Perretti, LLP, and Plaintiffs, through Plaintiffs’ counsel, and the Court needing to amend the Ninth Pre-trial Order entered on September 21, 2021, and for good cause shown;

IT IS on this 6th day of December 2021, ORDERED that the following pre-trial deadlines are hereby set for the trial involving TVT-O:

- I. Trial Date – Trial shall be set for **April 25, 2022**, or a date thereafter as set by the Court.
- II. Trial pool – The pool consists of:
 1. Farnsworth, Cheri Lynn & Leland, BER-L-014433-14, Hecht Kleeger and Oshman & Mirasola.
- III. Expert Discovery
 1. The deadline by which Defendants will serve their regulatory expert report and the resolution of any dispute about whether or when the Plaintiff may

serve a regulatory expert report shall be stayed until further order of the Court.

2. The parties shall make best efforts to complete all necessary plaintiff expert depositions by no later than **January 10, 2022**. No plaintiff expert need be produced for deposition before all corresponding defense expert reports are served with adequate time for review.
3. The parties shall make best efforts to complete all necessary defense expert depositions by no later than **February 4, 2022**.

IV. Pre-trial motions

1. Pre-trial motions (dispositive, Kemp/Accutane, *in limine*) shall be served by **February 11, 2022**. Consistent with the practice in this MCL, only the Notices of Motion and corresponding Forms of Order shall be filed with the Clerk's office (either in paper or via JEDS --NOTHING IS TO BE FILED VIA eCOURTS). All supporting papers, including briefs/memoranda and certifications are to be submitted *in camera* directly to Judge Harz's¹ chambers.
2. Oppositions to pre-trial motions shall be served and submitted to the Judge's Chambers by **March 14, 2022**.
3. Only where necessary, on leave of Court, limited replies shall be served and submitted to the Judge's Chambers by **March 25, 2022**.

¹ Should the case be assigned to Judge Thurber for pre-trial motions as well as trial, all papers will be submitted *in camera* to Judge Thurber's chambers instead of to Judge Harz.

4. Oral argument on pretrial motions and any remaining outstanding disputed deposition designations shall commence on **April 4, 2022**, continuing day to day as necessary.
5. The Court shall issue rulings on pretrial motions and any outstanding deposition designation disputes that impact opening statements, or other such issues that must be resolved prior to opening statements by no later than **April 18, 2022**.

V. Deposition designations

1. The parties shall exchange affirmative deposition designations for case-specific and non-case specific witnesses on or before **December 15, 2021**. The designations shall be identified by page and line number and the parties have agreed to use the same Excel spreadsheet format for ease of reference and exchange. The designations shall specifically identify exhibits to be offered through the deposition testimony.
2. Any objections to the designations or any of the accompanying exhibits sought to be entered through the deposition testimony, and any counter-designations and accompanying exhibits sought to be entered through the counter-designation testimony, shall be exchanged on or before **January 14, 2022**.
3. Plaintiffs shall advise Defendants of any witness for whom Defendants have identified deposition designations to which Plaintiffs will object on the grounds that the witness needs to be brought live to trial rather than played by video by **January 14, 2022**.

4. Any objections to the counter-designations and exhibits, and any counter-counter-designations to an opposing party's counter-designations, shall be exchanged on or before **February 11, 2022**.
5. The parties shall meet and confer no later than **March 11, 2022** to resolve objections to the designated testimony and exhibits and to resolve any proposed redactions to exhibits.
6. The Court shall commence hearings to resolve all outstanding objections relating to the deposition designations and exhibits during the same week that hearings will be set for pretrial motions, such that the Court will be able to issue rulings regarding disputed deposition designations by no later than **April 8, 2022**.

VI. Trial witnesses and exhibits

1. The parties shall exchange witness lists no later than **February 4, 2022**.
2. On or before **February 4, 2022**, Plaintiffs shall advise Defendants of Defendants' corporate witnesses whom they request to call as live witnesses at trial.
3. The parties shall disclose the identities of live witnesses who will testify at trial at least two business days prior to when the witness will be called. If the witness will be called on a Monday, then the witness must be disclosed by the end of court day on the preceding Friday.
4. The parties shall exchange their lists of all exhibits that may be offered during each party's case in chief by no later than **March 4, 2022**. Demonstratives and exhibits to be utilized solely for impeachment

purposes need not be included. The exhibit list shall be in the form of an Excel spreadsheet. The parties may supplement their exhibit lists from time to time prior to and during trial, provided that the supplementations are reasonable in terms of scope and number of documents. The parties shall meet and confer regarding the deadline and manner by which they will exchange copies of all exhibits (e.g., on a hard drive, as separate .pdf or .tiff images, etc.).

5. If a party elects to submit a paper copy of proposed exhibits to the Court for any purpose, and if the Court so permits, a duplicate shall also be provided to the adverse party.

VII. Jury instructions

1. The parties shall exchange initial proposed jury instructions by no later than **March 25, 2022**, and thereafter shall meet and confer regarding jury instructions.

VIII. Jury selection


1. The parties shall meet and confer on a juror questionnaire by no later than **March 25, 2022**.
2. A proposed agreed upon jury questionnaire must be submitted to the Court no later than **April 1, 2022**. If the parties are unable to agree upon a form of juror questionnaire, the parties shall submit competing forms and identify for the Court those questions upon which they cannot agree.
3. The parties shall agree upon a service to copy the final questionnaire to ensure that there are sufficient copies for distribution to the jury pool and

for duplication of the completed questionnaires for distribution among counsel. The cost of copying shall be borne equally by Plaintiffs and Defendants.

4. On the same date that the jury questionnaire is submitted (and if not included in the proposed long form jury questionnaire), the parties shall submit a concise descriptive statement of the nature of the case not to exceed one page in length for the Judge's use during jury selection.
5. Jury selection will begin on **April 25, 2022**, with jurors to complete short form (hardship) and long form questionnaires on **April 18, 19 and 20..**

IX. Commencement of Trial — Opening statements will commence on or as soon after **April 25, 2022**, following jury selection.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of this Order shall be served upon all counsel within seven (7) days of the date of this Order.



Hon. Rachelle L. Harz, J.S.C.