

News from RF Surgical Systems, Inc.
and Researchers at the University of North Carolina(UNC)
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Multicenter Study on the Effectiveness of Radio-Frequency Surgical Detection System receives distinguished Exceptional Merit Poster nomination to be presented at the 96th American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress and the possibility to be awarded the Best Scientific Exhibit

Bellevue WA and Chapel Hill, NC (Sept 24, 2010) – Results of the largest prospective multicenter study with over 3,500 surgical procedures using a Radio-Frequency Surgical Detection System to prevent retained surgical sponges will be presented by a team of surgeons from the prestigious University of North Carolina(UNC) during the 96th American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress in Washington, DC.

The poster is titled:” ***Effectiveness of Radio-Frequency Surgical Detection System to Promote Patient Safety During an Operative Procedure by Improving the Process by which Doctors and Nurses Track Sponges Prior to Wound Closure***” It has received the distinguished nomination of Exceptional Merit Poster by the American College of Surgeons. More than 325 posters will be on display at the Clinical Congress but only a select few are designated Posters of Exceptional Merit and one will be awarded the Best Scientific Exhibit.

“We were astonished but not surprised to find that our research poster was selected in the Exceptional Merit Posters’ category, as the study is really unique and with the great support from RF Surgical Systems, Inc. we were able to enroll over 3,500 patients in five centers across the country” said Dr. Christopher Clarence Rupp, Surgeon and Principal Investigator at UNC, Chapel Hill.

“This multicenter study involving the use of our market leading detection technology to prevent retained sponges and soon instruments, is a huge step forward for clinicians and other academic groups” said Steve Subiry, Director of Marketing, RF Surgical Systems, Inc. He further concluded that having clinical evidence of this magnitude will solidify the effectiveness of using adjunct technologies such as the RF Surgical Detection Technology.

In October 2008, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and an increasing number of private insurers have announced that they will no longer reimburse for procedures associated with “never events” such as retained surgical items. Published studies today indicate that one in every 1,000 to 1,500 intra-abdominal surgeries results in a sponge left behind in a patient. A retained sponge incident can

lead to serious complications, including sepsis, unnecessary X-rays, increased anesthesia time, need for repeat surgeries and even death.

In August 2010, the AORN made public the results of a comprehensive Healthcare Failure Mode and Effect Analysis (HFMEA) titled: ***Limitations of the Surgical Counts***. The HFMEA found that the top five causes for potential failures involving surgical counts are; Distraction, Multitasking, Not following Procedures, Time Pressure and Emergency cases. These causes account for 91% of all causes yielding to surgical count failures. The presenter, Victoria M. Steelman, PhD, RN concludes as follows: “**counting is not enough to prevent retained sponges 100% of the time, and perioperative nurses should evaluate technology for assistance**”. AORN's newly revised Recommended Practices for Prevention of Retained Surgical Items also includes a new recommendation that perioperative nurses evaluate technology to assist with the surgical count. (Limitations of the Surgical Count, Victoria M. Steelman, PhD, RN, CNOR, FAAN, AORN Board of Directors, August 12, 2010)”

Effective July 15, 2010, the AORN Recommended Practices Committee released the revised Recommended Practices (RP) for the Prevention of Retained Surgical Items, including ***Recommendation VII which recognizes that Perioperative Staff Members may consider use of adjunct technologies such as RF Detection to supplement surgical count procedures.*** RF Detection Technology can help eliminate the risk of having a retained surgical sponge and improve patient safety, while not disrupting operating room workflow.

About RF Surgical Systems, Inc.

RF Surgical Systems is the market leader in the prevention and detection of retained surgical sponges with more hospitals in service than any other competing technology. The RF Surgical Detection System is the preferred solution in more than a 1,000 Operating Rooms, Trauma and L&D suites nationwide.

RF Surgical Systems, Inc. is a medical device company with headquarters in Bellevue, Washington and engineering R & D facilities in San Diego, California. The advanced technologies used in the RF Surgical Detection System are protected by U.S. patents. Regulatory clearance to market the system was granted by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in November of 2006.

About UNC Healthcare

The UNC Health Care System is a not-for-profit integrated health care system, owned by the State of North Carolina and based in Chapel Hill. It exists to further the teaching mission of the University of North Carolina and to provide state-of-the-art patient care. A distinguishing characteristic of UNC Health Care is its association with the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Medicine, a nationally eminent research institution. This relationship gives UNC Health Care a powerful pathway for moving the results of biomedical research from medical school laboratories to patient care settings. UNC Health Care has been granted broad powers by the North Carolina General Assembly to assure its management flexibility and competitiveness in a rapidly changing health care business environment. The enterprise is governed by a board of directors appointed by the University of North Carolina.