

Innovation That Makes A Difference

What are the top instruments and devices making a difference in the surgical suite?



Being a product-based magazine, the staff here at *Surgical Products* undoubtedly has an appreciation for new and innovative technology. However, a little over a month ago, as we engaged in our annual planning meetings, a discussion arose about the more recent technological growth in surgical products.

When we thought a little more about where surgery was even a year ago in comparison to today, we were pretty impressed. So impressed, in fact, that we are sure next year will spark even further excitement.

From continued advancements in the da Vinci Surgical System, for example, which allows surgeons to operate remotely ([check out a recent video](#) [1]), to an RFID sponge counting and detecting system that works to prevent retained surgical sponges to a robotic surgical camera to instruments specifically designed for Natural Orifice Transluminal Surgery (NOTES®), innovation is paving the way for advanced surgical care.

Sure, we at *Surgical Products* are interested (and sometimes a bit awestruck) with the new surgical advancements available today. However, we're not the ones depending on this technology to do surgical procedures, care for patients and save lives.

So, we've decided that the best way to find out what products are truly making a difference in the OR is to ask you — the surgeons, surgical professionals and device providers that rely on this technology and drive it forward.

To find out which of these products and technologies are pushing the marketplace forward, we need two things:

- First, suppliers and manufacturers: We need you to submit entries for the

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first annual *Surgical Products* ESP (Excellence in Surgical Products) Awards.

Innovative surgical products can be sent in via email to

spaward@advantagemedia.com [2].

- Second, we'll be asking our surgeon, nurse, OR supervisor and hospital purchasing readers to help us pick the winners.

Nominees will appear in the September and October print issues of *Surgical Products*, with readers being able to vote online for their favorites (more info on where to vote to come later). The winners will be announced in our November/December 2009 issue.

At the end of the day, how “innovative” a surgical product is comes down to how useful it is in the OR—if it makes the lives of surgeons and OR staff easier, makes OR processes run more efficiently, and ultimately, makes surgery safer for your patients. Therefore, it only seems right that we leave it up to you to tell us about the products you feel will shape the surgical suite today, and provide a glimpse of what will be so important in the future.

Comments? Email Amanda.McGowan@advantagemedia.com [3]

***Surgical Products* is conducting a brief, one-question survey about healthcare insurance coverage. [Click here to answer the question.](#) [4] Thank you!**

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