Radio Frequency Surgical Detection Technology

RF Surgical Systems, Inc., the market leader in the prevention and detection of retained surgical sponges, today announced the availability of the RF Assure™ Detection System. This next generation platform, powered by RF Surgical's market-leading radio-frequency detection technology, features an ingenious automatic detection mat for "hands-free" patient scanning, an easy-to-operate touch screen color display, a new patient data recording module and a powerful processor to enable faster, accurate and reliable scanning while promoting staff confidence and compliance.

Despite strict counting protocols, surgical sponges are sometimes unintentionally left inside patients after wound closure. These "never events" are a potential source of morbidity for patients and a liability for care providers and institutions. The RF Assure Detection System offers surgical teams reassurance during wound closure that no missing sponges are unintentionally left behind inside the patient. With the push of a button, the RF Assure Detection System is able to perform a complete mat scan in 15 seconds without disrupting the surgical field.

The RF Surgical Detection Technology has shown to be effective in mitigating the risk of a retained sponges regardless if the surgical counts are correct, and even during high-pressure, emergency "no time to count" procedures, such as trauma cases. The new hands-free scanning functionality minimizes workflow disruption and reduces potential human errors. The system offers a unique dual detection mode with the Blair-Port Wand® that can still be used to perform a quick scan to rectify sponge counts and is useful for extended coverage in cardiac, trauma and bariatric cases.

The new RF Assure Detection platform includes the following upgrades:

- Detection Mat – Placed on top of the surgical table pad and underneath the drapes/pad covers, the mat features six radiolucent, X-ray compatible antennas that automatically scan for retained surgical items fitted with an RF tag.
- Intuitive User Interface –The system console features a touch-screen with clear, color-coded visuals for less distraction and improved feedback to operating room staff during surgery. Case information can be retrieved directly from the console on-demand.
- Reporting and Compliance– Confirmation of scanning is displayed and recorded after each scan and can later be associated to patient medical records for improved compliance and reduced hospital liability.
- Efficiency – Automatic scanning can reduce time to resolve surgical material miscounts by operating room staff and helps avoid unnecessary X-rays to locate the missing items, potentially reducing the time the patient is under anesthesia and promoting a higher level of patient safety and other cost benefits.
- Bariatric Scanning Capabilities – The system accommodates high Body Mass Index (BMI) patients and offers the only dual detection mode in the market allowing the surgical staff to use the Blair-Port Wand and RF Assure Mat in tandem to gain extended detection coverage.

Interim results of the first and largest multi-center prospective study on the effectiveness of radio-frequency detection technology to improve surgical counts and staff wound closure confidence were presented last month at the American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress meeting by a team of researchers from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. According to the data, RF Surgical Detection Technology can help avoid the use of radiation to locate missing sponges regardless of whether the surgical counts are correct, help to quickly rectify miscounts and, in almost 90 percent of operations, surgical staff reported RF detection improved overall confidence that no retained surgical sponges were left in the patient.

For more information, visit www.rfsurg.com [1]

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