

Don't Count on Counting to Locate Sponges

Despite the best surgical team practices, some patients leave the OR with undetected sponges, gauze or towels still inside them.

Studies indicate this breach in patient safety occurs in every 1,000 to 1,500 intra-abdominal surgeries. The risk of a retained sponge incident is highest in trauma, emergency and after hours surgeries, cases of long duration, high volume blood loss or with high BMI patients.¹

These types of surgeries are not always conducive to manual or automated counting procedures. The RF Surgical Detection System, however, can be quickly and effectively used in these high risk cases and all surgical procedures to prevent retained sponges.

If you're looking for missing sponges, don't count on counting to find them. Even post-operative x-rays miss retained objects more than a quarter of the time.² Only a sponge detection system with the accuracy and range of the RF Surgical Detection System can detect sponges left inside patients to prevent their retention or find missing sponges elsewhere in the OR to help reconcile counts.

The RF Surgical Detection System™ — Simply a Smarter Way to Operate

¹Gwande A, et al., "Patient Safety: Risk Factors for Retained Instruments and Sponges after Surgery," *New England Journal of Medicine* 2003 348; 229-235.

²Jancin, Bruce. "Study Eyes X-Ray Screening for Retained Foreign Bodies," *Surgery News* 5/2007.



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System Anatomy

Three key components make up the RF Surgical Detection System: the 24 hour reusable Blair-Port Wand®, a self-calibrating detection console and a micro tag which is embedded in a variety of surgical gauze, sponges and towels. When the system is activated and the wand is passed over a patient prior to closing procedures, an audible and visual alarm would immediately signal the presence of any retained object(s) fitted with a tag.



The patented RF Surgical Detection System has received FDA and European CE Mark approval. It has been tested and certified to meet the requirements and standards of the following:
IEC 60601-1, Medical Electrical Equipment General Requirements for Basic Safety and Essential Performance
IEC 60601-1-2, Medical Electrical Equipment General Requirements for Basic Safety—Electromagnetic Compatibility
CAN/CSA c22.2, Medical Electrical Equipment General Requirements for Safety—Canada
MDD Annex II, European Directive for Active Medical and Invasive Devices
SOR-98-282, Health Canada Medical Device Regulations

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07-0004 Rev C

DETECT & PREVENT



RF Surgical Detection System™

KNOWING THAT IT'S SAFE TO CLOSE

Are there sponges still inside the patient?

A quick body scan before closing provides the answer—taking you from uncertainty to knowing in less than 60 seconds.

That's the proven power and reliability of the RF Surgical Detection System™ from RF Surgical.

It's the first truly cost effective, easy to use scanning system to accurately detect and prevent retained surgical sponges in patients following surgery.



The RF Surgical® Advantage

Physicians, nurses, risk managers and administrators all share the responsibility of improving patient safety and care.

By implementing the RF Surgical Detection System, your hospital will raise the standard of care and medical delivery to your patients with a technology that offers a real advantage over competitive counting-based solutions.

Accurate

- Deep cavity detection through tissue, fluids and bone
- Designed to avoid interference with other electronic medical devices
- Detection, not counting, finds missing sponges
- Tag detection unaffected by blood or body marking ink

Safe

- IEC 60601-1 &-2 certified for medical electrical equipment safety
- Low energy emission from wand
- Proven safe and effective in over 120,000 surgical procedures

Low Cost

- Average per case cost **now under \$15** using 24 hour reusable wand
- No capital expense for consoles supplied to each OR
- Sponge detection prevents a costly and dangerous retained sponge “never event”

Easy to Use

- 30-40 second body cavity scan does not disrupt OR workflow
- No need to log sponges in and out as with a counting system
- Scanner can quickly detect a retained sponge in a patient or locate missing sponges anywhere in the OR
- Practical for use in all surgical cases, including trauma and emergencies



Improving Patient Safety, Reducing Hospital Risk

The RF Surgical Detection System is currently used in more than 100 hospitals and medical centers nationwide. In over 120,000 procedures, it has performed with 100% reliability—with zero incidence of a retained tagged sponge, gauze or towel.

Using the 24 hour reusable Blair-Port Wand®, the system now averages **less than \$15** per surgical case. That is an extremely cost-effective investment in improving patient safety while avoiding the costly consequences of a retained sponge “never event” in your hospital.