

## New Beepers Unveiled To Keep Doctors From Leaving Sponge Inside Patients

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Chicago, Il. (AHN) - Researchers at the Stanford University School of Medicine have designed a special beeper that will prevent doctors from accidentally losing a sponge or other surgical equipment inside a patient.

The beeper will sound an alarm and alert surgeons should they sew a patient back up and forget to remove a sponge from a patient's body following surgery.

However doctors participating at the university who participated in the research said the chip is still too big and has to be reduced to make its use practical.

Alex Macario a physician and professor of anesthesia who led the study said, "We need a system that is really fail-safe; where, regardless, of how people use this technology, the patient doesn't leave the operating room with a retained foreign body."

According to him, a successful system should include a combination of tags and counting instruments and sponges before and after an operation.

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