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Introducing The Surgical Sponge Detection Tool

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By Mya Blake

A device has been developed to make it possible for doctors to scan a patient's body for missing sponges following surgery



It is being reported that there is a new device that has been designed to make it possible for surgeons to retrieve that missing sponge accidentally left in the patient following surgery. The device is called a Radio Frequency ID (RFID) and is attached to the sponges by stitching them in to the material. Typically during an abdominal surgery, a minimum of 50 sponges are used and although each sponge is accounted for before and after surgery there is the od occasion when one goes

missing.

Similar to the device found on an article of clothing in a clothing store that will beep if not removed when you exit the store, the RFID will

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send radio waves to a hand held wand that when waved over the patient, will identify the radio waves if a sponge is present. In trials using 8 patients, 4 out of 8 the wand was successful in locating the missing sponge.

"This is a very nice proof-of-concept," stated Atul Gawande, a surgeon at Brigham Women's Hospital in Boston.

Sponges that are forgotten in the body of a patient can lead to that patient developing infection and possibly even dying.



Surgical Simulation

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Health | 416 reads

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