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Subject: : Gear Talk

Topic: : Hemostats/Forceps Do You Use Them?

Re: Hemostats/Forceps Do You Use Them?

Author: : PatrickC

Date: : 2013/10/2 19:45:58

URL:

Quote:

pccray1231 wrote:

I use them.

I have 2 remaining pair. I got them free for a long time, and the reason why is prime fodder for those who complain of excesses in the medical world.

After surgeries, they are discarded instead of re-used. Yes, they can be cleaned and re-used, they're stainless steel after all. But they don't do that. Because some bean counter calculated that the danger of improperly cleaning and sterilizing would result in litigation much greater than just continually opening new ones out of sealed packages from the supplier in the operating room.

That is not an industry wide standard. So, one could argue that institution is guilty of excess waste, but that is not the case nation wide.

I've done a whole lot of surgery in my career at a whole bunch of institutions and never seen hemostats disposed of after every case. The only disposable hemostats I see are the ones found in disposable suture removal kits that are often used on the hospital floors for inpatients. When I served as chief of surgery we had many discussions about reusable vs disposable instruments, and simple commonly used instruments like hemostats were never part of the discussion.

I only say this so that Pccray's statement is not used in your next argument about the waste in the American health care system. Don't get me wrong. There is a ton of waste, but tossing out hemostats after every surgery is not the issue across the nation. And believe me, if they were being tossed out after every case, I would be donating thousands upon thousands of them every year to you folks.