



Safer Practice Notice

Status

- Active
- Updated
- Resolved

Zone Application

- Provincial
- North
- Edmonton
- Central
- Calgary
- South

Potential for retention of the SurgiFish® Viscera Retainer

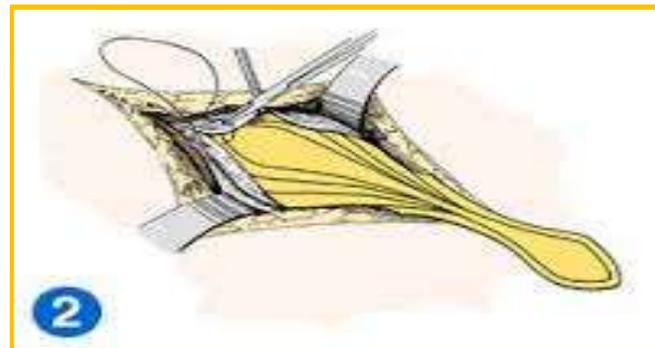
Issue

A viscera retainer may be used to facilitate difficult closures of abdominal wounds. There have been instances in which a SurgiFish® Viscera Retainer remained in a patient's abdomen post closure.

Potential contributing factors include:

- The yellow colour of the SurgiFish is very similar to the color of adipose tissue, and its planar shape means it may slide into the wound. Both contribute to making the SurgiFish difficult or impossible to see.
- The SurgiFish does not have an attached retrieval device that remains outside the body and serves as a visual cue to its presence, at closure.
- The use of a SurgiFish® may not be consistently documented on the surgical count sheet due to its introduction near the end of the procedure.
- The SurgiFish® may be “cut to size” which may confuse the surgical count

Unfortunately, there are no viscera retainer devices available in Canada with external visual cues and retrieval mechanisms.



Attach prolene suture or snap to Surgifish to help prevent slippage and serve as a visual cue.

07 June 2016

For Action By:

- Surgeons
- Nurses
- Nurse Educators

Contact:

Dr. John Kortbeek
403-944-1697
john.kortbeek@ahs.ca

Action

- Surgeons to ensure either a prolene suture or a surgical instrument, such as a snap, are attached to the SurgiFish® prior to placement inside the abdomen. The suture or surgical instrument will serve as a visual reminder of the SurgiFish® in the surgical field.
- Operating Room nurses ensure the SurgiFish® is added to the surgical count sheet once given to the surgical team. Nurses should be aware that the “cut to size” process may result in the more pieces than originally counted in.