THE EXISTING PROBLEM OR ISSUE

The evolution of laparoscopic surgery has seen iterative change with remarkable achievements of equipment and surgical technique. These operations push the edge of what can be achieved technically to the extent that nuance and finesse of individual components are ultimately the difference between success and failure. Formula One is an analogy – what makes one car faster than another? Many small things. Surgery is not a race but it is the product of many small things. We present one such small thing.

Products come and go, succeed with one idea and borrow another to the extent that many of the generic laparoscopic components are relatively indistinguishable; ports are an example. Companies are constantly seeking a product differentiation feature. We present one possibility.

OUR SOLUTION

Ergonomic analysis of the port/abdominal wall interface reveals a poorly lit tangle of competing cables and tubes. The ports themselves are like icebergs with most of them ‘below the surface’ with a small plastic nubbin available – barely enough to grasp with thumb and index finger – even if it can be seen. Certainly not enough to allow the port to be held in position while one instrument is exchanged for another in the ‘heat of battle’. “Clipper please – whoops – sucker – harmonic – sucker again – clip!” each to EXACTLY the same place.

There is assistant and surgeon, supporting hand and dominant hand and so it makes sense that there be a port specialised for the supporting hand – the support – as we can label all currently available ports and now a port specialised for the active hand. The Active Port is able to be held in position to funnel rapid and particularly accurate instrument exchange, self-directing, removing that little bit of angst that accompanies the fumble to re-engage which all currently available ports, as beautiful and spare in design as they are, currently demand.

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<th>FEATURES</th>
<th>BENEFITS</th>
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<td>Passive guidance of instruments via cam shape and angle rotation</td>
<td>Facilitates accurate placement of instruments in dark and complex areas</td>
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<td>Recurved funnel for laparoscopic surgery</td>
<td>Inexpensive composition</td>
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BENEFITS

✓ Instruments can be placed in the same place as the previous instrument
✓ Facilitates accurate placement in dark and complex areas
✓ Can be pre-fitted or added to surgical procedures
✓ Inexpensive composition, comparable to existing products

INVENTORS

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INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY POSITION

Australian Patent Application: Laparoscopic guide

WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW MORE?

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