

Surgeon inventor challenges century-old trauma technique

By Steve Hamilton
Date March 7th 2013

Auckland, New Zealand - New Zealand based medical technology start-up Surgionix, is set to challenge conventional orthopaedic trauma technology when it launches its patented Slick™ drill-bit system at the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgery meeting in Chicago, March 2013.

Surgionix's innovative new orthopedic trauma product, the Surgionix Slick™ drill-bit, combines the drilling and measurement steps of screw hole preparation into a single action, while still sharing the performance and compatibility of standard drill bits.

Surgionix founder and inventor, orthopedic doctor Pranesh Kumar says, "Surgeons who have trialed the instrument set, recognize that by combining the two steps of drilling and depth gauge use, you can reduce costs, surgical time and the 'fiddle-factor'."

Since the early 1900s, orthopaedic surgeons have used implanted bone-plates and screws to repair broken bones. The screw-hole depth gauge was patented in 1925 and this instrument led to improved internal fixation surgery and became a standard instrument within most trauma sets.

Trauma screw-hole preparation using an orthopaedic drill and depth-gauge has undergone little change since the first screws were used for internal fixation until Surgionix recently developed their Slick™ drill-bit.

The Slick™ drill-bit's design includes a retractable wire and clip that extends to near the tip of the drill bit, acting like the hook of a depth gauge. This wire and clip acts as an integrated depth-gauge allowing the surgeon to take accurate measurements from the drill bit.

Surgionix worked with a wide variety of surgeons and nurses to develop their range of Slick™ drill-bit sizes and instrument accessories, which have been designed to fit neatly into a compact instrument set.

The set also provides easy-to-follow calibrations that are matched to trauma system implants from the major manufacturers.

Surgionix will be demonstrating the Slick™ drill-bit system to over 30,000 delegates at the Chicago American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgery meeting, 20-22nd May 2013 - Hall A, booth 4550.

Ends

Captions for accompanying pictures (please advise email details and we can send accompanying pictures);
Pic1SLICK_Drill - The color-coded wire & clip activates the SLICK™ drill-bit's integrated measuring system.
Pic2DrillSet – The SLICK™ drill set contains a variety of drill bit sizes and accessories designed to allow preparation of the bone for a variety of bone-screws and plates.

About Surgionix:

Based in Auckland, New Zealand, Surgionix is a medical technology start-up company founded by Dr. Pranesh Kumar, an orthopedic doctor with a special interest in research and development. Kumar owns patents on a range of innovative products. The Slick™ drill bit is the first of these to be commercialized. Surgionix invests boldly in R&D with the aim of developing cost-effective products that will enhance the provision of healthcare, and benefit both practitioners and patients.