

LEARN THE REAL RISKS OF SURGICAL SMOKE



GO CLEAR AWARD™

SURGICAL SMOKE EVACUATION RECOGNITION

SPONSORED BY MEDTRONIC THROUGH AORN FOUNDATION

Medtronic

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DO YOU KNOW THE HIDDEN DANGERS OF SURGICAL SMOKE?

The chemical, biological, and physical components of surgical smoke pose a health risk to the exposed perioperative team and patients. Eliminating surgical smoke from your OR will improve patient and worker safety and allow you to recruit and retain top employees.



There are an estimated **500,000** healthcare workers who are exposed to laser or electrosurgical smoke each year¹



More than
150
hazardous
chemicals
have been
identified
in surgical
smoke²



**ALL 16 U.S. EPA PRIORITY
POLLUTANT PAHS**
(polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons)
have been detected in surgical smoke³

Sur.gi.cal (a) \ 'smok\ (n)

The result of the interaction of human tissue with mechanical tools and/or heat producing devices used for dissection and hemostasis.



27-30

unfiltered cigarettes:
the average daily
impact of surgical
smoke to the OR team⁴

2X

Perioperative nurses report twice as many respiratory issues as compared to the general population⁵



POTENTIAL RISKS OF SURGICAL SMOKE^{4,6}:

- Asthma
- Emphysema
- Chronic bronchitis
- Hypoxia or dizziness
- Nasopharyngeal lesions
- Sneezing
- Nose and throat irritation
- Coughing
- Rhinitis
- Eye irritation
- Anemia
- Anxiety
- Carcinoma
- Leukemia
- Cardiovascular dysfunction
- Skin irritation
- Headache
- Hepatitis
- Nausea or vomiting
- Weakness/ fatigue
- Allergies

1. Laser/Electrosurgery Plume. Occupational Safety & Health Administration. <http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/laserelectrosurgeryplume/index.html>. Accessed February 19, 2016.
2. Pierce JS, Lacey SE, Lippert JF, Lopez R, Franke JE. Laser-generated air contaminants from medical laser applications: a state-of-the-science review of exposure characterization, health effects, and control. *J Occup Environ Hyg*. 2011;8(7):447-466.
3. Näslund Andréasson S, Mahteme H, Sahlberg B, Anundi H. Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in electrocautery smoke during peritonectomy procedures. *J Environ Public Health*. 2012;2012: 929053.
4. Hill DS, O'Neill JK, Powell RJ, Oliver DW. Surgical smoke - a health hazard in the operating theatre: a study to quantify exposure and a survey of the use of smoke extractor systems in UK plastic surgery units. *J Plast Reconstr Aesthet Surg*. 2012;65(7):911-916.
5. Ball K. Compliance with surgical smoke evacuation guidelines: Implications for practice. *ORNAC J*. 2012;30(1):14-16.
6. Alp E, Bijl D, Bleichrodt RP, Hansson B, Voss A. Surgical smoke and infection control. *J Hosp Infect*. 2006;62(1):1-5.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PROTECT YOUR STAFF & PATIENTS?

The AORN Center of Excellence in Surgical Safety and Go Clear Award™

AORN partnered with Medtronic through the AORN Foundation to create a comprehensive Surgical Smoke-Free Recognition Program for facilities that want to ensure a smoke-free environment for their perioperative team and patients.

HOW TO BECOME AN AORN CENTER OF EXCELLENCE IN SURGICAL SAFETY: SMOKE EVACUATION

To participate in the AORN Center of Excellence in Surgical Safety: Smoke Evacuation program, we recommend that your facility take these general steps towards eliminating surgical smoke and receiving your AORN Go Clear Award.

1. Secure leadership support
2. Assemble your Go Clear team
3. Perform a gap analysis & current product evaluation
4. Complete your intra-professional education
5. Conduct a CLEAR Audit*
6. Apply for the Go Clear Award

C.L.E.A.R. AUDIT

Upon completion of the program, your designated program coordinator will conduct a final C.L.E.A.R. (Check, Learn, Evaluate, Assess, and Report) audit of your smoke evaluation compliance..



HOW DO
I SIGN UP?

Go Clear with AORN at www.aorn.org/goclear

*After three months of smoke evacuation, your C.L.E.A.R. audit results will be submitted for the AORN Go Clear Award.

TAKE ACTION & ELIMINATE SURGICAL SMOKE

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- Attract and retain the best clinicians due to a healthier, smoke-free environment.
- Ensure the safety of all surgical patients by protecting them from the hazards of surgical smoke.
- Provide education for perioperative team members on the risks of surgical smoke and teach implementation methods for smoke evacuation.
- Increase smoke evacuation compliance on all surgical smoke generating procedures.

This program is designed for any facility that wants to improve patient and workplace safety, recruitment, retention, and be recognized for their commitment to a surgical smoke-free environment.

MAKE YOUR MARK - THE AORN GO CLEAR AWARD

The award criteria is based on your facility's education performance, smoke evacuation compliance, and ensuring your facility has the proper operating room equipment.



BE RECOGNIZED FOR YOUR COMMITMENT

All AORN Go Clear Award recipients will receive an award plaque, a listing on the AORN website, and will be recognized at the AORN Global Surgical Conference & Expo. Your facility will also receive access to the AORN Go Clear Award media kit that can be used to promote your smoke-free facility.

**HOW DO
I SIGN UP?**

Go Clear with AORN at www.aorn.org/goclear

“AORN has done an excellent job. The Go Clear Award program is going to be a huge success; really great support, information, and tools. The program is extremely comprehensive. Since rolling out our pilot program, our compliance has gone up to 90%.”

**Jeff Belcher, BSN, RN, CSSM
Interim Director, PeriOperative Services
Participated in AORN's Go Clear Pilot Program**



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