

Arytenoid Repositioning Device (ARD)

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Technology description

Background

Laryngeal paralysis can cause difficulty in speaking, swallowing and breathing in affected patients. This condition requires surgery to partially close the vocal cords to allow patients to perform these essential functions. The surgical procedure can be difficult to perform and usually requires invasive steps that lengthen and complicate patient recovery.

Technology

Researchers at the University of Iowa have created a medical device for arytenoid repositioning. This device consists of a wire with a corkscrew shape at one end for the purpose of engaging the arytenoid process. Once this tool is engaged, it can be used to push and pull the arytenoid process to perform optimum placement in surgical procedures for patients suffering from laryngeal paralysis. It's simple design and attachment mechanism make the surgical procedure necessary to implant this device less invasive for the patient, which eases recovery.

Advantages

IMPROVED CONTROL OF ARYTENOID. This device is much smaller and less obtrusive than conventional methods and is fastened through a simplified process.

SURGICAL PROCEDURE IS LESS INVASIVE. Previous devices required that large portions of the arytenoid cartilage be removed for implementation. In addition, implantation of these devices required elaborate fastening devices. This device requires neither of those steps.

ALLOWS FOR DISENGAGEMENT AND RE-ENGAGEMENT OF ARYTENOID. Unlike previous devices, this tool can be released once it engages the arytenoid process, giving the user the opportunity to reposition the device.

LESS IMPLANTED MATERIAL REQUIRED. This device is much smaller and less obtrusive than conventional methods and is fastened through a simplified process.

Institution

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