New Instrument for Implanting Medical Devices

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Technology description

Technical Summary

Emory researchers have designed a surgical tool for use when implanting medical devices where excessive force could injure the patient or damage the device. This instrument contains a simple, easy-to-monitor component which ensures a predetermined maximum force cannot be exceeded. The force threshold gauge incorporated into this instrument is smaller and significantly less complicated than currently available force gauges, allowing it to be sterilized and used during surgical procedures where the current gauges are unsuitable. Regular use of such a tool could reduce the possibility of surgeon error and potentially improve patient outcomes. This instrument was specifically designed for use in cochlear implant procedures, but can readily be modified for other purposes or procedures by changing the size or materials used.

Application area

Surgical tool for implanting medical devices such as cochlear implants.

Advantages

Limits the amount of longitudinal force that can be applied when implanting a medical device, reducing possible surgeon error.
Provides a simple & readily-observable way for surgeons to monitor force.
Can be modified to suit various procedures & applications.

Institution

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