

[54] **SURGICAL PAD**

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[58] Field of Search.....128/1.1, 1.2, 296, 132, 156

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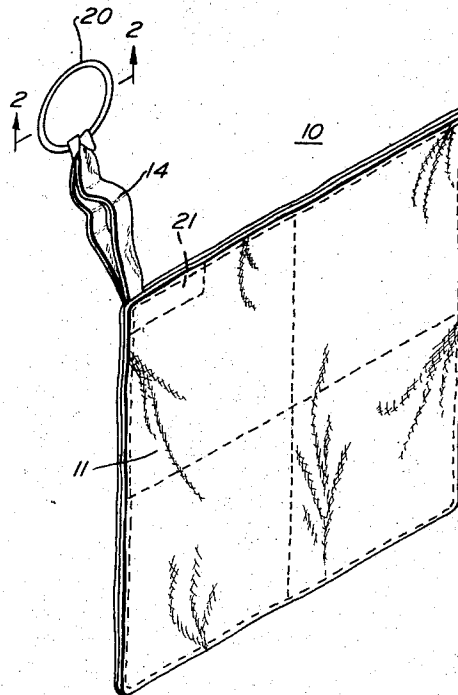
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ABSTRACT

A surgical pad or sponge is provided which includes a central portion of absorbent gauze with a loop attached thereto with an attached plastic ring having ir-radiation opaque properties.

7 Claims, 2 Drawing Figures



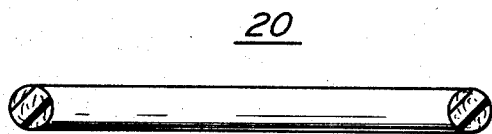
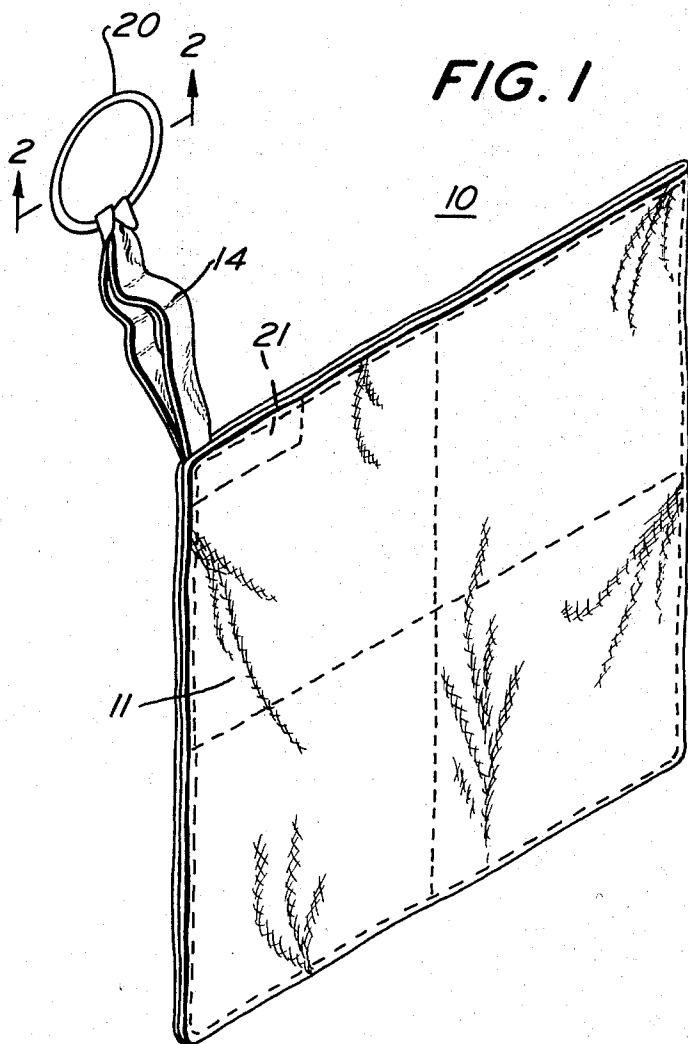


FIG. 2

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SURGICAL PAD

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

This invention relates to a surgical pad or sponge of the cotton gauze type with an attached counting ring opaque to radiation.

2. Description of the Prior Art

In abdominal surgery, either of the laparotomy type or of a specific nature such as an appendectomy, many surgical pads or sponges are needed.

The pads in general use are non-absorbent by the patient's body and must be removed prior to closing the abdominal incision to prevent damage to the patient. Should a pad be inadvertently left in the abdomen or a suspicion exist that one was, then some means of locating the pad should be available, rather than making another abdominal incision. The pads in use are of square or rectangular shape, are usually fabricated of cotton gauze and have a loop with which a metal ring is attached by the nurse prior to surgery. The metal rings are used for counting purposes and to assist in removal of the pad. Upon completion of the operation and removal of the pad the nurse detaches the ring and the pad is laundered and sterilized for re-use. In order to assist in pad detection should one be inadvertently left in the abdominal cavity, a radiation opaque strip is sewn into one corner of the pad.

The usual procedure to determine the presence and location of a pad or pads has been to x-ray the patient's abdominal area, which then provides identification as to the presence and location of a pad. However, the x-ray procedure is fraught with some danger to the patient as the metal ring may react with the x-rays and cause a severe secondary irradiation burn as well as drag damage to sensitive body tissues.

The pad of the invention does not cause any secondary burns upon x-ray and does not suffer from the other shortcomings of prior designs.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

A surgical pad is provided which includes a central gauze portion with a loop to which a plastic ring is attached, the ring containing a radiation opaque material to provide a means of counting, and detection thereof should the pad be left in an abdominal cavity. The rings may be of different colors to permit visual pad size determination.

The principal object of the invention is to provide a surgical pad that is easy to detect in an abdominal cavity.

A further object of the invention is to provide a surgical pad which has a plastic ring attached that is non-toxic to the patient and does not cause secondary irradiation burns.

A further object of the invention is to provide a surgical pad that reduces labor costs.

A further object of the invention is to provide a surgical pad having a ring portion which may be of any desired or selected color to indicate the size of the pad.

A further object of the invention is to provide a surgical pad with an attached ring portion of dull finish to minimize glare.

A further object of the invention is to provide a surgical pad having a ring portion whose lighter weight creates less pull on the surgical pad, thereby minimizing possible trauma to internal body tissues.

A further object of the invention is to provide a surgical pad that is simple and inexpensive to construct but sturdy and long lasting in use.

Other objects and advantageous features of the invention will be apparent from the description and claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The nature and characteristic features of the invention will be more readily understood from the following description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings forming part hereof, in which:

FIG. 1 is a view in perspective illustrating the surgical pad in accordance with the invention; and

FIG. 2 is a vertical sectional view taken approximately on the line 2—2 of FIG. 1.

It should, of course, be understood that the description and drawings herein are illustrative merely and that various modifications and changes can be made in the structure herein without affecting the scope of the invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring now more particularly to the drawings, the surgical pad 10 as illustrated has a body portion 11. The body portion 11 is of square configuration with dimensions in common use of 12 inches by 12 inches, 18 inches by 18 inches, or rectangular configuration with dimensions in common use of 18 inches by 4 inches or 36 inches by 8 inches. The body 11 is preferably constructed of a three or four ply cotton gauze having the qualities of fluid absorption and non-shedding. Other suitable materials than cotton gauze may be used if desired.

The body 11 has a loop 14 attached thereto at one corner of a length of about six inches in the preferred embodiment and constructed of a cotton tape or other suitable material. A ring 20 is provided attached to the loop 14 and is of a diameter of 2 1/4 inches in the preferred embodiment but also may be of lesser or greater dimensions, if desired. The ring 20 is preferably constructed of either nylon or polypropylene or any other suitable plastic material with barium sulphate or any other suitable material incorporated therein in sufficient quantity to make the ring radiation opaque so as to exhibit visibility on an x-ray picture or on a fluoroscope. The surface of the ring 20 is preferably dull so as not to reflect light and the rings 20 may be of different colors to indicate the size of pad used and facilitate the pad or sponge count.

If desired an additional radiation opaque strip 21 may be sewn into the pad at one corner to provide an added fail/safe means of pad identification.

It will thus be seen that a pad has been provided with which the objects of the invention are attained.

I claim:

1. A surgical pad which comprises a body portion of fluid absorbent material, a loop portion attached to said body portion, and radiation opaque non-metallic ring means engaged with said loop.

2. A surgical pad as defined in claim 1 in which said body portion is of at least two ply cotton gauze.

3. A surgical pad as defined in claim 1 in which said ring means is composed of synthetic plastic material with a radiation opaque additive.

3

4. A surgical pad as defined in claim 3 in which said synthetic plastic material is nylon.
5. A surgical pad as defined in claim 3 in which said synthetic plastic material is polypropylene.
6. A surgical pad as defined in claim 3 in which

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- said additive is barium sulphate.
7. A surgical pad as defined in claim 1 in which a radiation opaque strip is provided contiguous to one margin of the body portion.

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