

Salient Surgical, Medtronic sue Bovie over blood vessel sealing patent

Mass Device

Salient Surgical Technologies and Medtronic Inc. (NYSE:MDT) slapped Bovie Medical Corp. (NYSE:BVX) with a patent infringement lawsuit over technology used in Salient's Aquamantys electro-surgical cautery system.

The lawsuit, filed in the U.S. District Court for Delaware, accuses Bovie Medical of violating a trio of patents licensed to Portsmouth, N.H.-based Salient with its SEER fluid-assisted electro-surgical system. It seeks a jury trial, a permanent injunction on further infringement, damages on lost royalties and legal fees.

Both the Aquamantys and SEER (saline-enhanced electro-surgical resection) devices use saline and radiofrequency energy to seal blood vessels during surgery. The Food & Drug Administration [cleared the SEER device for liver oncology surgery](#) [1] in November 2008, close on the heels of a CE Mark in the European Union. The Aquamantys system [won a series of 510\(k\) clearances](#) [2] from 2005 to 2008.

[Salient](#) [3], founded as TissueLink Medical in 1999, [banked \\$15 million from its seventh funding round](#) [4] in January. Its backers include Medtronic — which owns a nearly 9 percent stake in the company — TLM Investors, QuestMark Advisors and the RiverVest Venture Fund.

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<http://www.mdtmag.com/news/2010/06/salient-surgical-medtronic-sue-bovie-over-blood-vessel-sealing-patent>

Links:

[1] <http://www.boviemed.com/stocknews08.asp>

[2] <http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cdrh/cfdocs/cfpmn/pmn.cfm>

[3] <http://www.massdevice.com/node/2724>

[4] <http://www.massdevice.com/node/5406>

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