Hernia Repair Fueled by Demand, Innovative Bio-Fabrics

Kalorama Information

Increased incidence of hernia and a need for better repair materials is driving the $3.5 billion hernia repair market, according to Kalorama Information. The market consists of products such as mesh materials, devices including fixation, equipment such as endoscopes, and instruments such as hand tools, according to the healthcare market research publisher. A new report, Hernia Repair Device Markets and Procedures [1], indicates that the market has experienced steady demand which has been consistent from year to year, with 4.8% growth on average since 2008.

A hernia is the protrusion of an organ or part of an organ through a defect in supporting structures that normally contain it. The National Center for Health Statistics estimates that about 5 million people in the United States have an abdominal hernia. It is also a common problem for other parts of the world. European authorities estimate that approximately 2 million individuals experience hernias and in Asia and the rest of the world another 1 million individuals experience them. A hernia may occur naturally from a patient's supporting structures, or it may be acquired from an injury or from a lung issue that leads to a persistent cough. Most occur in the inguinal or femoral region; however, umbilical, ventral, and hiatal hernias also occur.

Herniorrhaphy is one of the most common surgical procedures with over 1 million performed annually, more than 80 percent of which are ambulatory cases. Only a fraction of these people seeks treatment. It is generally thought that 3% of the general population will have or develop some type of abdominal wall hernia, thus driving the need for procedures and better equipment that will help reduce recurrence.

"In the past ten years, the application of bio-textiles for implants has been greatly developed in the new field of tissue engineering," said Mary Ann Crandall, Kalorama analyst and author of the report. "New product innovation, a steady demand for superior products by surgeons, and increasing procedure volumes will likely fuel growth over the next five years."

Composite mesh with absorbable and non-absorbable barriers for intraperitoneal placement, lightweight macroporous mesh and xenogeneic and allogeneic biological meshes are several of these novel materials discussed in Kalorama Information's report. B Braun Aesculap, Biomerix Corporation, ConMed, Cook, Covidien and Ethicon are among the companies in this market.

The report, Hernia Repair Device Markets and Procedures [1], contains profiles of these companies and discussions of new products, forecasts for specific device

markets, and trends that market-watchers will want to keep track of.

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