

Sept. 21 statement on hydraulic fluid analysis report issued by lawyers David Henson and David Weinstein:

“We have not seen the report, so we can’t speculate on those findings; but what we can reinforce is what we already stated publicly many times about what patients were exposed to. This information is included in a public Web site (<http://hydraulicfluidfacts.dukehealth.org>).

“It is very important to remember that patients were only exposed to the instruments *after* the instruments underwent the sterilization and cleaning process; patients were not exposed to the bulk fluid.”

“We stand by the results of two independent studies and our own internal analysis – that confirmed that the sterilization of surgical instruments was fully effective, and RTI’s analysis of the fluid, which found only minuscule residual amounts of fluid on the instruments. Based on these findings, Duke maintains this low exposure was not harmful to patients.”

-- Duke University Health System