

Statement from Duke University Health System issued 5:30 p.m. July 13, 2006, in response to lawsuit filed against Duke earlier that day:

"Our staff continues to focus on the health care needs of all of our patients. As a policy, we do not comment on matters in litigation. We can say what we have stated publicly many times. This information is included in a public Web site, hydraulicfluidfacts.dukehealth.org.

"We regret this incident occurred, but stand by the results of independent studies and our own analyses. These confirmed that the surgical instruments were fully sterile; in addition, the independent scientists at RTI found only a minuscule residual on the instruments.

"More than 18 months have passed since this event; we are thankful that these findings and the evidence we've seen suggest this low exposure was not harmful to our patients."

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