

Surgeon Spotlight

John L. Fewins, M.D., FACS is a strong believer that surgeons should look to outcomes studies when evaluating new technologies. Dr. Fewins, who had been using controlled ablation for approximately 95 percent of his tonsillectomy procedures, turned to the clinical literature when seeking out a tissue fusing and cutting device that would minimize tissue damage, bleeding and post-operative pain. That's how he first learned of MiFusion® ENTceps® from Microline Surgical (formerly Starion Instruments), which employs Thermal Fusion Technology (also known as Tissue Welding).

“Any good surgeon should be open to using something new that might have clinical benefit for his/her patients,” said Dr. Fewins. “A few years ago I came across a meta-analysis of tonsillectomy techniques that compared and contrasted electrocautery, controlled ablation, and tissue welding, with tissue welding offering clear benefits.”

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According to Dr. Fewins, he was intrigued by MiFusion ENTceps but tabled his evaluation of the technology because it was unavailable in his area at the time. In the meantime he investigated other devices for tonsillectomies but found the expense prohibitive.

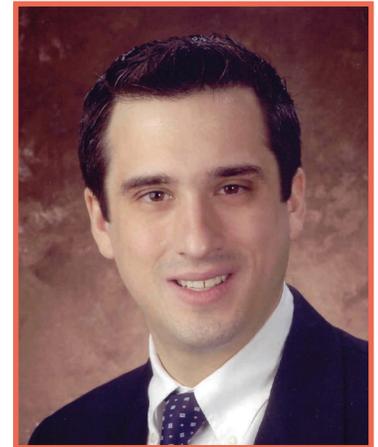
“One product that I evaluated was the LigaSure™ device but the price was somewhere around \$400 per patient and I just couldn’t justify those costs,” said Fewins. “Not long after a Microline rep came knocking at my door and gave me the opportunity to evaluate MiFusion ENTceps.”

MiFusion ENTceps is a bayonet-style forceps designed specifically for procedures where fine precision, soft tissue sealing and dividing is required, such as tonsillectomy, parotidectomy, thyroidectomy and uvulopalatopharyngoplasty. Through Microline’s patented Thermal Fusion Technology, MiFusion

ENTceps®

ENTceps enables surgeons to quickly and delicately seal and divide soft tissue, minimizing collateral tissue damage.

“I’ve been using MiFusion ENTceps mainly for pediatric tonsillectomies and there is less damage to the surrounding tissue compared with a controlled ablation device,” said Dr. Fewins. “There is also considerably less intraoperative bleeding to the extent that in young children I have relatively no blood loss. To my knowledge, I’ve only had one bleed occur in several hundred cases with the device.”



John L. Fewins, M.D., FACS

Dr. Fewins notes that MiFusion ENTceps is easy to use, requiring a short learning curve. As for the length of procedures, he’s found the time for a MiFusion ENTceps tonsillectomy is equivalent to one performed with a controlled ablation device.

In closing, Dr. Fewins remarked on the benefit to his patients.

“No one should ever expect a completely painless procedure but of all things on the market today the recovery is typically much smoother with MiFusion ENTceps than anything else,” said Dr. Fewins.

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