

# Improved Specimen Orientation Following Excision for Breast Cancer

## Background

It has now been well established that successful breast conservation requires clear surgical margins. Precise orientation of the excised specimen is therefore of extreme importance. Precise orientation allows accurate re-excision if final histopathology reveals a close or transected margin.

## Problem

Surgeons employ a variety of methods to mark specimen margins and to communicate specimen orientation to pathologists. Different surgeons methods can create inconsistency and confusion in both the operating room and the surgical pathology laboratory. Methods like, long suture superior and short suture medial or two sutures lateral, one suture inferior create the need to constantly re-invent and communicate an orientation system for every case performed.

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## Solution

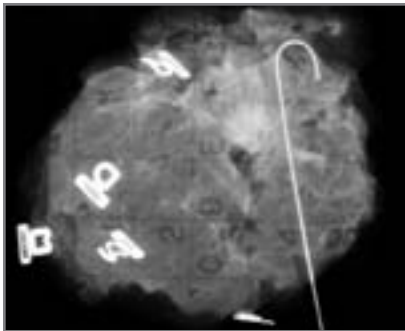


Fig. 1



Fig. 2

There is great need for a simple, accurate, easily reproducible consistent orientation system that requires little or no verbal communication for it to be correctly used and understood. A product available from Beekley Corporation, Bristol, CT, called MarginMap®, provides unmistakable communication regarding specimen orientation and which margins is which. Each of the 6 charms clearly identifies a corresponding margin and will image on the radiograph (Fig.1). Each of the charms is clearly and easily visible to the pathologist during preparation of the specimen for fixation.

When used in-vivo (Fig. 2), the charms are sutured to each margin while the specimen is being excised. MarginMap provides extremely precise specimen orientation, staying in place through movement, image manipulation, or orthogonal imaging. MarginMap gives a clear depiction of the orientation of the lumpectomy specimen for more accurate pathologic interpretation.

## MarginMap®

### Benefits of a Standardized System for Specimen Orientation:

- **More precise re-excision when required**
- **More precise nonverbal communication with Nurses and Pathologists leads to greater Surgeon satisfaction due to the elimination of repetitive communication**
- **Time savings with unmistakable margin identification**
- **Better patient care**

