Cervical Cerclage

Cervical cerclage is the placement of sutures into and around the cervix during early stages of pregnancy in the event that the cervix is partially open and there is a threat of miscarriage. The sutures are removed at a later stage of pregnancy, when the risk of pregnancy loss is diminished. Removal of cervical cerclage sutures is complicated by swelling of mucosal tissue which engulfs external loops of the suture in the time between placement and removal. This makes removal of the sutures difficult and often results in trauma to the cervix. The invention is a tool for atraumatic removal of cervical cerclage sutures.

Novel Device Facilitates Atraumatic Cerclage Removal

The invented device enables tunneling under the cervical mucosa without cutting it and facilitates the ability to cut the suture once it is elevated from surrounding tissue. The device further enables the removal of sutures that remain after the knots from the sutures are cut. Currently, there is no easy way to do this without high risk of trauma to the cervix and additional complications.

Market

There are approximately 200,000 cerclage procedures performed each year in the United States. No decline in the rate of cerclage is anticipated, thus the number of cases will increase as the child bearing age population increases. Studies indicate that there is an increasing rate of premature cervical dilation in pregnancy.

Opportunity

EVMS is seeking sponsored research and/or licensing partners to commercialize this technology.