

NEUTRAL ARGON PLASMA FOR THE LAPAROSCOPIC TREATMENT OF ENDOMETRIOSIS

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Endometriosis affects 15% of reproductive aged women. It is the 3rd leading cause of gynaecologic hospitalizations and is associated with chronic pain, diminished quality of life, sub-fertility, psychological morbidity and work absenteeism. Diagnosis has proved difficult in the past because lesions are usually undetectable by exam, labs or imaging modalities. Surgical assessment by laparoscopy for simultaneous diagnosis and treatment has been the gold standard for endometriosis. Neutral argon plasma, like the Plasma Jet® System, gained FDA approval as a coagulation device in 2004. It can be utilized as a multi-functional device for vaporization, coagulation, and superficial cutting with acceptable outcomes such as minimal thermal spread (0.5-2mm). The use of neutral argon plasma in the treatment of all stage endometriosis in various locations within the body (i.e. ovaries, pelvic sidewall, fallopian tubes, etc.) appears to be efficacious and safe.

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