



Augustine's latest paper: Advertising masquerading as science

Once again, Scott Augustine is creating fiction and calling it science.

His latest ploy: Augustine has published a so-called research paper on an Italy-based pay-to-publish website called Orthopedic Reviews. According to the website, papers are published online for a €600 "article processing charge."

Know the Truth

- Augustine's paper is titled, "Forced-air warming discontinued; periprosthetic joint infection rates drop." It is full of misleading, inaccurate information. For example: Augustine's paper suggests that periprosthetic joint infection rates dropped at three medical centers after switching from forced-air warming systems to Augustine's conductive warming blanket. Except:
 - Augustine does not name the three facilities. However, he has stated that one of them is Ridgeview Medical Center. He claims joint infection rates fell 81 percent after the hospital switched warming methods.
 - Ridgeview has publicly disavowed Augustine's claims, which he also used in speaking with a newspaper reporter in 2011. At that time, Ridgeview's Chief Administrative Officer told the newspaper that "there is no data to support a direct correlation to that product and our reduced infection rates."
 - In an internal email at Ridgeview, the hospital's director of Emergency & Surgical Services said "There is no supportive data that we have or that the Surgeons would support the Hot Dog as the connection to reduced infection rates. Our rates are lower based on the work of a number of folks and a number of different initiatives."
- Augustine writes: *Several studies have shown that the waste heat from forced-air warming (FAW) escapes near the floor and warms the contaminated air resident near the floor. The waste heat then forms into convection currents that rise up and contaminate the sterile field above the surgical table. And: The fact that waste FAW heat causes contamination of the sterile surgical field has been corroborated by seven peer-reviewed, published studies.* Except:
 - 3M is not aware of any study that shows waste heat from a forced-air warming device contaminating the sterile field.
 - In fact, Scott Augustine has attempted – and failed – on numerous occasions to show that forced-air warming contaminates the surgical field. The seven studies Augustine mentions all specifically state that

they do not provide a causal connection between forced-air warming and surgical site infections.

- Augustine irresponsibly links forced-air warming with heater-cooler devices used in cardiac surgery. In fact:
 - The U.S. Centers for Disease Control has issued warnings about potential infections related to heater-cooler devices. But forced-air warming devices are a completely different technology; heater-cooler devices use water and studies have shown that bacteria can grow in the water and be blown into the surgical field. Forced-air warming devices do not use water, and it is irresponsible to link the two technologies.

When making decisions, it is vitally important to consider the source – in this case, Scott Augustine, whose company makes a warming blanket that competes with the 3M™ Bair Hugger™ system and its forced-air warming technology.

Augustine previously pled guilty to Medicare fraud. The FDA has formally warned him about making inaccurate claims. He has waged a decade-long campaign to malign the 3M Bair Hugger system, including instigating lawsuits against 3M.

And now, he paid to publish a misleading paper and wants people to believe that it is science. It is not.

For more information, go to:

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