



Ascension
Technology Corporation
Making Minimally Invasive Possible

PRESS RELEASE

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Leading Trade Publication Says Ascension Sensors Improve Accuracy of Biopsy Needle Procedures

BURLINGTON, VERMONT; April 22, 2010: *Radiology Today* has published an article in its April 2010 issue reporting that Ascension's magnetic tracking of a biopsy needle's tip helps physician's "hit targets with pinpoint accuracy every time."

The article "Tracking the Tip – Improving Accuracy for Needle Biopsies" by Pulitzer-prize winning writer, Steve Wagner, focuses on how a new 0.9mm sensor enables real-time, percutaneous biopsy without radiation or open surgery.

Click here to read Wagner's *Radiology Today* article: ["Tracking the Tip."](#)



Ascension has developed the world's smallest sensors for navigating medical instruments in image-guidance procedures.

Wagner interviewed CIVCO's Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Willet F. Whitmore, and developers at GE Healthcare and Ultrasonix Medical Corporation for the article. CIVCO, among others, makes needle toolsets with reusable housings for the sensor, which is embedded near the tip of an introducer (stylet). CIVCO designed the miniaturized sensor into its new eTRAX™ guidance toolset. GE and Ultrasonix are among the first ultrasound companies to introduce FDA-certified biopsy needle guidance modules for their ultrasound platforms.

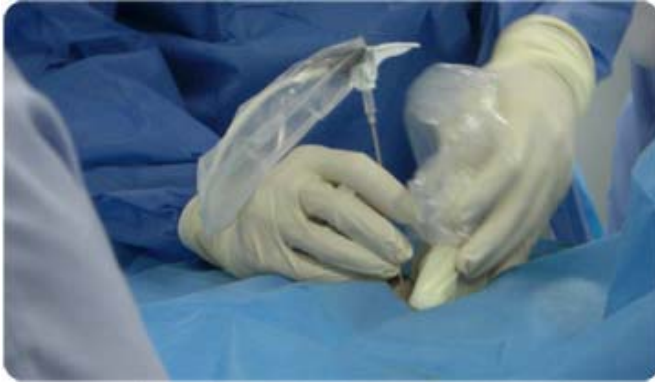


Image Courtesy CIVCO Medical Solutions

Ascension's miniaturized sensors eliminate the guesswork and inconsistency of biopsy needle placement. Until now, ultrasound-assisted biopsy and ablation could not always hit the center of targets due to blockages in the ultrasound signal.

As shown here, both an ultrasound probe (right) and the biopsy needle toolset (left) are tracked in real time. The data is used to provide the physician with a graphic overlay on an ultrasound image screen to guide the needle to the center of a target.

According to Wagner, 'improved visualization and needle placement should mean fewer costly incisional surgeries and fewer complications, such as inadequately striking pathway obstructions.'

For more information about ASCENSION TECHNOLOGY CORPORATION:

Based in Burlington, Vermont, USA, Ascension is a world leader in magnetic and optical products for real-time tracking, navigation and guidance in surgical navigation and 3D localization procedures. Its new generation of 3D Guidance tracking devices is a key enabling technology for many minimally invasive procedures. For more information: www.ascension-tech.com.

Biomedical references and procedures described here are examples of what can be accomplished with tracking and imaging technology once end users and/or systems integrators have complied with all pertinent FDA/CE/IRB directives.

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