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SINGLE USE SURGICAL ENSURES PAKISTANI SOURCED SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS ARE HIGH QUALITY

Last night BBC's Panorama exposed substandard surgical instruments manufactured in Pakistan that are putting UK patients at risk. Common faults include rough edges and also burrs and fragments that can break off in surgery, compromising patient safety.

This came as no surprise to Barnsley based surgical instrument supplier, Single Use Surgical. Matthew Tulley, Single Use Surgical's Managing Director, comments "we buy some instruments from Pakistan but we are not 100% cost driven like other companies; we have a reputation in the UK for our high quality products and we would never compromise this. Consequently we go above and beyond measures that are set in place by regulatory bodies. Not only do we thoroughly check all our Pakistani suppliers but we also employ a Quality Technician, Vaughn Reaney, who rigorously inspects every single instrument that we source from Pakistan, right here in Barnsley. If any surgical tool isn't fit for purpose and of the highest quality it doesn't leave our door".

The programme also raised concerns over a lack of hygiene in some factories in the city of Sialkot in northern Pakistan. Matthew Tulley added that "Single Use Surgical cleans and sterilizes all instruments sourced from Pakistan in the UK. And any instrument that is difficult to clean is not made in Pakistan but manufactured in the UK. For example, our suction tube range is manufactured in a British clean room because fine lumens are difficult to clean and we do not want to risk any debris getting into the tube and being a potential contamination risk".

Tom Brophy, Lead Technologist at Barts and the London Trust, who is responsible for checking equipment for the Trust's hospitals, pointed out how he has found Pakistani instruments that have unwanted grooves or trenches that can trap body tissues or fluids – another possible source of infection. Tulley assured that "we reject instruments with any sign of surface defects and fractures as well as many other important criteria. Additionally all our instruments are single use so there is never any risk of patient to patient cross infection".

"Surgical staff and patients can rest assured that if Single Use Surgical's instruments are used in procedures they are of the highest quality"

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About Single Use Surgical

Single Use Surgical offer an alternative to reprocessing instruments with narrow channels. They offer a wide range of British made disposable suction tube instruments for use in surgical procedures across several specialties. The company's focus on high quality, ergonomic design and customer support provides hospitals with a cost-effective alternative to reprocessing devices that carry a risk of being inadequately cleaned due to instrument design and inappropriate manufacturer's instructions. Switching to single use also reduces the volume of difficult to clean devices that pass through Sterile Services on a daily basis, helping to alleviate time constraints and ultimately to reduce Hospital-Acquired Infection rates.

If you would like more information on Single Use Surgical's products, please call +44 (0)1226 732 333 or email info@susl.co.uk