



# Enterprise-Grade Routine Video Recording in the Operating Room: A Strategic Opportunity

Routine intraoperative recording protects health  
systems, surgeons, and patients.

## OR Recordings as an Opportunity, Not a Risk

Leading health systems are increasingly adopting surgical video recording as a proactive strategy to enhance patient care and safety, improve legal defensibility, ensure compliance with healthcare regulations, and upgrade surgical education. Secure, enterprise-grade video systems provide hospitals with clear, measurable advantages in each of these areas.

### Key Benefits of OR Video Recording



#### Enhancing Patient Safety & Quality Improvement

- Enables data-driven performance analysis, helping to identify surgical process improvements<sup>1</sup>.
- Supports real-time and retrospective surgical coaching to improve surgeon skills and support better outcomes<sup>2</sup>.
- Encourages a culture of transparency and learning, improving team performance and collaboration.

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<sup>1</sup> Dimick JB, Scott JW. A Video Is Worth a Thousand Operative Notes. JAMA Surg. 2019;154(5):389-390. doi:10.1001/jamasurg.2018.5247

<sup>2</sup> Grenda TR, Pradarelli JC, Dimick JB. Using Surgical Video to Improve Technique and Skill. Ann Surg. 2016;264(1):32-33. doi:10.1097/SLA.0000000000001592

## Theator Publications



Surgical Intelligence Can Lead to Higher Adoption of Best Practices in Minimally Invasive Surgery

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Journal of Minimally Invasive Gynecology

Routine Automated Assessment Using Surgical Intelligence Reveals Substantial Time Spent Outside the Patient's body in Minimally Invasive Gynecological Surgeries

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While some hospitals have expressed concerns that patients might take issue with having their surgical procedures recorded, research and real-world experience suggest otherwise<sup>3</sup>:

- Transparency builds trust, not fear. Many hospitals already record aspects of patient care (e.g., ICU monitoring, telemedicine) without patient objections.
- When patients understand that recordings are used for quality improvement and education, they are more likely to view them as a positive safety measure.

<sup>3</sup> Jesudason E. Surgery should be routinely videoed. J Med Ethics. 2023;49(4):235-239. doi:10.1136/medethics-2022-108171



## Improving Legal Defensibility & Reducing Malpractice Risk

- Provides objective evidence that clarifies surgical events and reduces reliance on subjective testimony<sup>4</sup>.
- Helps resolve disputes more efficiently, reducing legal costs and reputational risks.



A common concern is that recordings could be used against hospitals or surgeons in lawsuits. But the evidence does not support this:

- OR recordings are more likely to serve as a legal shield by providing factual evidence that protects against false claims<sup>5</sup>.
- Hospitals that implement structured OR recordings are likely to resolve legal disputes faster with objective proof, requiring fewer resources.

## Theator Case Study



How one hospital used video to confirm that a missing foreign body was not left in a patient

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<sup>4</sup> Yiu A, Lam K, Simister C, Clarke J, Kinross J. Adoption of routine surgical video recording: a nationwide freedom of information act request across England and Wales. EclinicalMedicine. 2024;70:102545. Published 2024 Mar 22. doi:10.1016/j.eclinm.2024.102545

<sup>5</sup> Eckhoff JA, Rosman G, Altieri MS, et al. SAGES consensus recommendations on surgical video data use, structure, and exploration (for research in artificial intelligence, clinical quality improvement, and surgical education). Surg Endosc. 2023;37(11):8690-8707. doi:10.1007/s00464-023-10288-3



## Ensuring Compliance & Preventing Uncontrolled Recordings

Hospitals must address the growing risk of unregulated OR recordings by surgeons using personal devices, USB drives, or unsecured storage. Without a structured system, video exposes hospitals to a range of issues<sup>6</sup>:

- HIPAA violations due to unencrypted, improperly stored, or improperly accessed patient data.
- Data security risks, including unauthorized access, breaches, and loss of sensitive information.
- Lack of institutional oversight, increasing liability.

By implementing a structured, enterprise-grade solution, hospitals can do the following:

- Ensure HIPAA and GDPR compliance through encryption, de-identification, and controlled access.
- Protect patient privacy with audit logs and role-based permissions.
- Define retention policies that align with institutional legal and compliance strategies.



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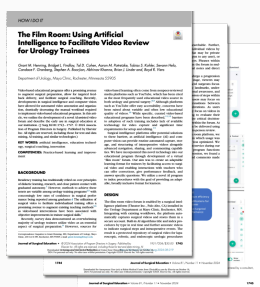
<sup>6</sup> Walsh R, Kearns EC, Moynihan A, et al. Ethical perspectives on surgical video recording for patients, surgeons and society: systematic review. *BJS Open*. 2023;7(3):zrad063. doi:10.1093/bjsopen/zrad063



## Advancing Training, Education, and Residency Programs

- Enhances surgical education by allowing trainees to review real-world procedures<sup>7</sup>.
- Facilitates performance feedback, enabling faculty to provide precise coaching.
- Supports competency-based learning, helping residents master complex techniques more efficiently.
- Reduces reliance on subjective evaluation by providing objective assessment tools for residents.

### Theator Publication: Journal of Surgical Education



The Film Room: Using Artificial Intelligence to Facilitate Video Review for Urology Trainees

[View publication >](#)

<sup>7</sup> Greenberg CC, Dombrowski J, Dimick JB. Video-Based Surgical Coaching: An Emerging Approach to Performance Improvement. JAMA Surg. 2016;151(3):282-283. doi:10.1001/jamasurg.2015.4442

## Conclusion: A Proactive, Strategic Investment in Risk Management

As evidence-based medicine and objective documentation become the standard across the healthcare ecosystem, routine OR video recording is future-proofing hospitals. By controlling access, ensuring privacy, and integrating video into quality improvement efforts, hospitals can leverage recordings as an asset rather than a liability.

Theator transforms OR video from a risk into an opportunity for:

- ✓ Legal protection & risk reduction
- ✓ Patient safety & quality improvement
- ✓ HIPAA compliance & data security
- ✓ AI-driven insights & operational efficiency
- ✓ Data-driven decision-making and surgical standardization
- ✓ Alignment with best practices in modern healthcare delivery
- ✓ Visible commitment to innovation, transparency, and continuous quality improvement

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This whitepaper is provided for informational and educational purposes only and is intended to offer insights into routine video capture in the operating room. The content herein does not constitute legal, regulatory, or compliance advice.

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