

Know the Truth: Important facts about Oregon State University study

You may have seen reports from Oregon State University about a study of forced-air warming systems and the dispersion of shed skin cells in a sample operating room. There are some important things to know about this study:

- It is not truly independent; it was created for plaintiffs' lawyers in their litigation against the 3M™ Bair Hugger™ warming system.
- The study fails to disclose that it was created for litigation purposes and that the researchers were paid by lawyers to do it. One of the authors, Dr. Said Elghobashi, charged plaintiffs' lawyers \$120,000 for the study.
- The study is a computer simulation; it did not examine real-world conditions.
- 3M attorneys told a federal court in October that no court has ever relied on this type of study to prove disease causation.
- The Bair Hugger system has been safely used more than 200 million times in the past 30 years. There is no proof that the Bair Hugger warming system has ever caused an infection.
- A large number of studies continue to recommend patient warming, which has been shown to provide valuable benefits to surgical patients, including reducing the risk of surgical site infections, reduced mortality, fewer post-operative heart attacks, reduced blood loss and faster recovery times. A compendium of studies can be found [here](#).
- Patient Safety is 3M's No. 1 priority and we stand behind our products, patients and customers.