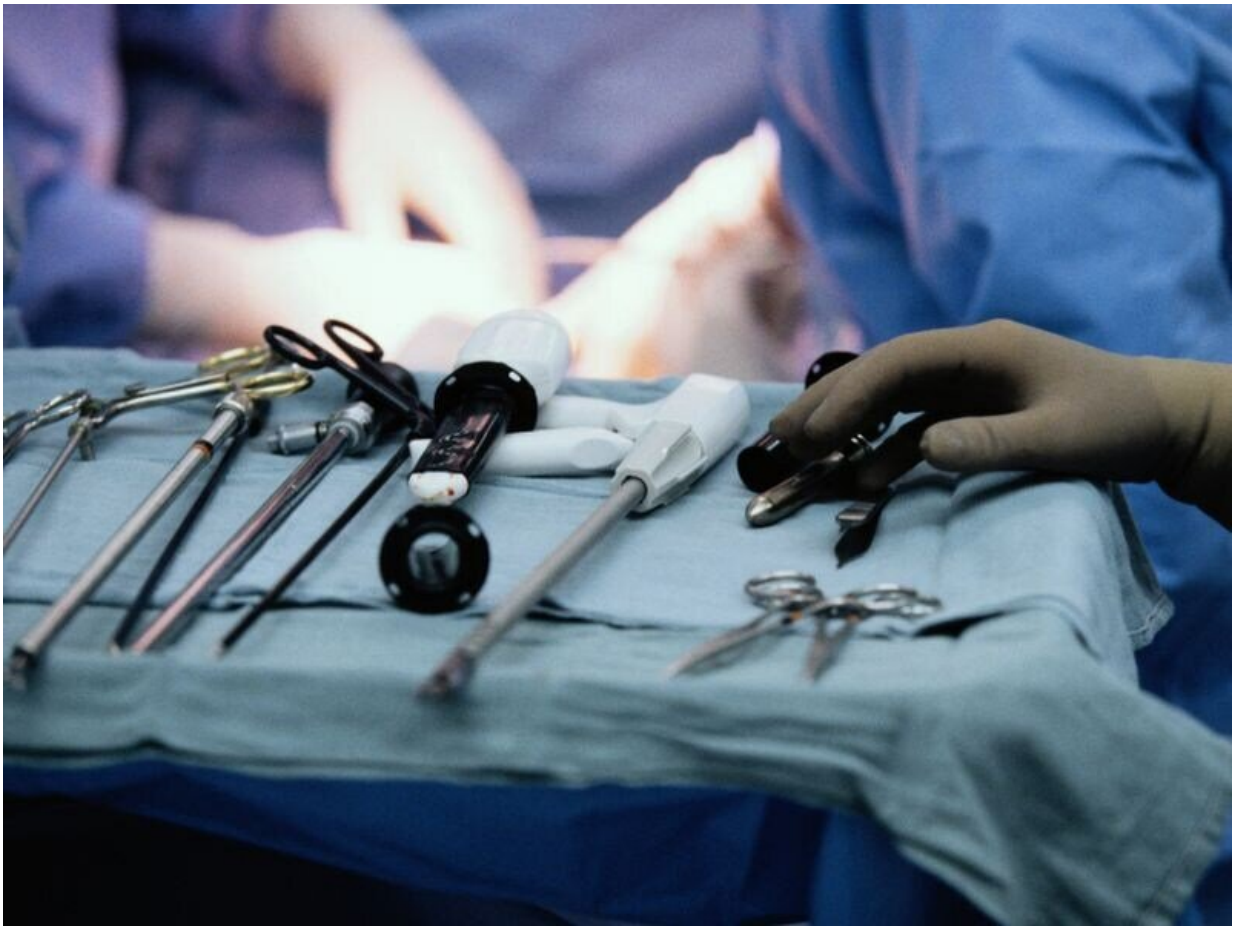
3-D tattoo device aids with nipple reconstruction

January 4 2020



(HealthDay)—A new device allows plastic surgeons to perform three-

dimensional nipple tattoos as part of breast reconstruction, according to a study published in the January issue of *Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery*.

Solomon Azouz, M.D., from the Mayo Clinic in Phoenix, and colleagues surveyed 753 plastic and reconstructive surgery offices to assess current practices of three-dimensional medical tattooing for nipple reconstruction following mastectomy. The authors also developed and present a nipple-by-number device, a three-dimensionally printed stencil to ensure an accurate, consistent, and personalized aesthetic result during three-dimensional nipple-areola complex tattooing.

The researchers found that 23 percent of facilities that offer reconstruction do not perform or refer for nipple-areola complex tattooing, leaving the patients to seek the service on their own. The nipple-by-number device gives the patients the option of having their premorbid nipple-areola complex anatomy restored through preoperative photographs or choosing from a catalogue of designs. Furthermore, the device can be applied on any reconstructed breast mound whether or not a nipple projection procedure has been performed.

"The nipple-by-number device permits the plastic surgeon or supervised treating specialist to inexpensively, efficiently, and expeditiously perform the three-dimensional nipple-areola complex tattooing in their office," the authors write.

More information: Abstract/Full Text