



Please address written correspondence c/o:

## International Adhesions Society

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[www.adhesions.org](http://www.adhesions.org)

The IAS is a volunteer organization for the promotion of awareness and research into Adhesion Related Disorder, as well as the support of patients and families afflicted with ARD.

#### *Founder*

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Neither the IAS, Synechion, Dr. Wiseman or any other representative offers medical advice. Always consult a qualified health professional before embarking on, or changing, a course of treatment.

Due to the fledgling nature of the IAS, the IAS, its web site and newsletter is owned and operated by Synechion, Inc. We are not a registered charity.

Support for the IAS is provided free of charge by Synechion, Inc. Please consider making a contribution to defray the costs of running the IAS. Please make checks (non-deductible) payable to: SYNECHION, and mail to:

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Dear Doctor,

We have been asked to provide this letter of introduction concerning the problem of Adhesions and Adhesion Related Disorders (ARD). Please make this information available to other members of your team by placing this letter in the patient's medical file.

Adhesions are probably the single most common and costly problem related to surgery, and yet most people have never heard the term. The problems that they have been documented to cause – pain, infertility and bowel obstruction – are under-appreciated. The following statistics however tell an important story:

- 35% of women having open gynecologic surgery will be readmitted 1.9 times in 10 years for operations due to adhesions, or complicated by adhesions.<sup>1</sup> There are similar numbers for men also.
- Hospital admissions for ADHESION RELATED DISORDER (ARD) rival those for heart bypass, appendix and other well known operations.<sup>2</sup>

Everyone has heard of heart, hip and appendix operations, but not ADHESION operations! In the USA in 1996, there were 474,000 procedures for peritoneal adhesiolysis.

Adhesions are an almost inevitable outcome of surgery, and the problems that they cause are sometimes severe. The lack of awareness about adhesions and ARD means that many doctors are unable to tackle adhesions, insurance companies are unwilling to pay for treatment and patients are left in misery.

ARD may become so severe that patients are unable to work. Obtaining health

<sup>1</sup> Lower AM, Hawthorn RJ, Ellis H, O'Brien F, Buchan S, Crowe AM. The impact of adhesions on hospital readmissions over ten years after 8849 open gynaecological operations: an assessment from the Surgical and Clinical Adhesions Research Study. Br J Ob Gyn. 2000; 107:855-862.

<sup>2</sup> Ellis H, Moran BJ, Thompson JN, et al. Adhesion-related hospital readmissions after abdominal and pelvic surgery: a retrospective cohort study Lancet 1999; 353:1476-1480.

care or disability is difficult. Family life is destroyed and patients report that nobody believes that they are really sick. These problems magnify the basic problem to the point of suicide.

We know that your patients appreciate your time and compassion, and invite you to become partners with us in helping to alleviate the suffering of the ARD patient.

The INTERNATIONAL ADHESIONS SOCIETY (IAS) was formed in 1996 to:

- improve awareness about ADHESIONS
- to provide support to patients
- information to medical professionals
- to support research into adhesions and their prevention

Please take a moment to visit our web-site – [www.adhesions.org](http://www.adhesions.org) – and also download our newsletter – [Connections](#), copies of which we can make available for your patients, at no charge.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

With our grateful thanks,

Sincerely,

David M. Wiseman

David M. Wiseman Ph.D., M.R.Pharm.S.

Founder, IAS

[www.adhesions.org](http://www.adhesions.org)