

## Cook Medical releases new product for hernia repair

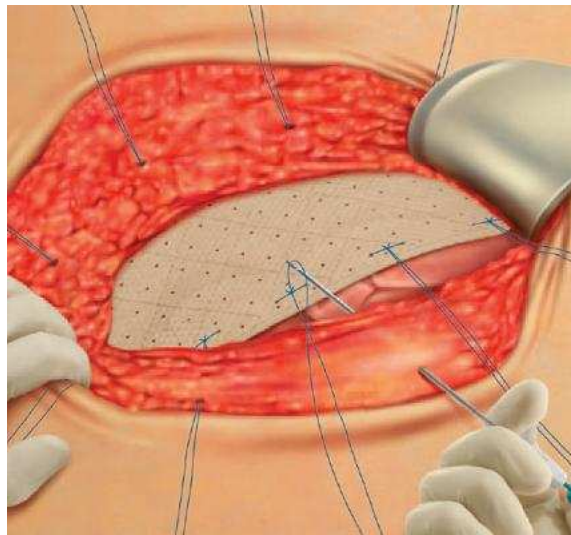
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Cook Medical's newest product has hit the market. Cook's BioDesign Hernia Graft was introduced to doctors at a meeting of the American College of Surgeons in San Francisco, Calif., this week, say company officials.

The graft contains pig intestinal tissue that is processed into a kind of patch that promotes natural regrowth and repair of the body's own tissues. Andy Cron, vice president of Cook Surgical, likens the BioDesign material to a trellis placed into the body to help the patient's cells grow. Using the material means "getting what nature has already invented and putting it to work inside the human body," he said. The hernia graft can be used for different types of hernias. However, the BioDesign material itself can be more than a hernia repair graft, said Cron.

"We can design this in many different ways," said Cron. The company has used BioDesign material for other medical procedures. According to a company news release, BioDesign has more than 15 federal Food And Drug Administration clearances for use in hernia repair; fistula repair; plastic and reconstructive ear, nose and throat repair; staple line reinforcement; Peyronie's disease repair; continence restoration and pelvic floor repair.

The BioDesign hernia graft is manufactured in West Lafayette. The technology that originated the BioDesign material came about through a partnership with Purdue University, said Cron.



This illustration shows how the Biodesign Hernia is used to surgically repair a hernia.