

Alleviating the Dangers of Surgical Smoke

In summary, from the Joint Commission's recent statement regarding "**Alleviating the dangers of surgical smoke (link 1)**" (Issue 56, December 2020):

- At high concentrations, surgical smoke causes ocular and upper respiratory tract irritation and creates visual problems for the surgeon.
- Literature reveals that nanoparticles comprise 80% of surgical smoke and are the real danger of inhaled smoke. These are less than 100 nanometers in size, and when inhaled, they enter a person's blood and lymphatic circulatory systems and travel to various distant organs.
- It has been shown that surgical smoke can cause in-vitro mutations and be a contributing factor to higher rates of pregnancy complications for female surgeons.
- Recommendations include the implementation of standard procedures for the removal of surgical smoke and plume through engineering controls, such as smoke evacuators and high filtration masks to help protect patients and staff from the dangers of surgical smoke.

Learn more about Symmetry Surgical Smoke Evacuation Solutions (link 2).

Links:

1. <https://www.jointcommission.org/resources/news-and-multimedia/newsletters/newsletters/quick-safety/quick-safety-issue-56/>
2. <https://www.boviemedical.com/smoke-evacuation/>