Reducing Enterotomies... Am I Just Lucky?

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Disclosures

- Bard Davol – Honorarium, teaching
- Intuitive Surgical – Honorarium, teaching
- Medtronic – Honorarium, consulting
About Me

• Abdominal Wall Surgeon at Washington University School of Medicine
  • Residents & Fellows
• Practice is skewed to mostly complex reconstruction
• >50% of my open cases are revisional

• I don’t think I am special!
What do I do differently?

- 15 Blade Scalpel
#15 Scalpel

- Thank you - Paul Priebe, MD

- Ideal for tough adhesions to old mesh
- More precise than Metzenbaum
- Tension is your friend
- Don’t be afraid to get a fresh blade
What do I do differently?

• 15 Blade Scalpel
• Don’t be afraid to take over
When to take over?

- Don’t worry about the residents feelings
- Do it before the injury
- When mesh and bowel have become one
- Start to see serosal injuries
What do I do differently?

• 15 Blade Scalpel
• Don’t be afraid to take over
• Work lateral around adhesions
Work lateral

• Find normal space (usually lateral)
• Work over mesentery
• Circle back towards yourself
• Minimize risk for getting in wrong plane
Summary

• Take your time
• Gain access away from trouble
• Open the midline first if possible
• Find preserved space laterally
• Anticipate when to take over
• Don’t be afraid to use a scalpel

• Prevent issues before they arise