

## Video chat to prevent wrong site surgery



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### SURGICAL CHALLENGE

Wrong site surgery, labeled a never event by the National Quality Forum,<sup>1</sup> is particularly relevant to dermatologists. If a dermatologic surgeon needs biopsy site confirmation from the referring physician in real time and photographs or diagrams are unavailable or inaccurate, wireless video conferencing software such as FaceTime (Apple, Cupertino, CA) can be used during the visit.

### SOLUTION

When the biopsy site is unclear and real-time confirmation is needed, the treating physician marks the suspected site and establishes a FaceTime video connection (WPA2 Enterprise with Advanced Encryption Standard Encryption; HIPAA [Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act] compatible). The referring dermatologist, who must also connect to WPA2 Wi-Fi, receives the video conference call on an Apple device over a secure Wi-Fi server. The surgeon's phone camera is directed at the patient and the area of question is visualized by the referring physician. After the referring physician identifies the biopsy site by either confirming or guiding the surgeon to re-mark the correct site, the video consultation is concluded. In this regard, the referring dermatologist provides remote audiovisual guidance with real-time feedback on biopsy site location.

FaceTime is HIPAA compliant so long as both parties are using WPA2 Enterprise Wi-Fi. Other video chat options such as [Vsee.com](http://Vsee.com), [doxy.com](http://doxy.com), and WhatsApp are alternatives to FaceTime that are end-to-end encrypted and can be securely used across platforms.<sup>2</sup> Since most clinicians possess a mobile device and secure wireless internet is a standard feature of most medical offices, videoconferencing is a readily available tool that can help optimize patient safety.

### REFERENCES

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