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Gunze Limited

In May 2022, Gunze announced its medium-term management plan, "VISION 2030 Stage 1," declaring that it will contribute to society and achieve sustainable growth for Gunze through sustainable management that balances "Social value" and "Economic value".

This newsletter provides information on our sustainable management initiatives. In this, our 10th issue, we'd like to share with you our efforts to improve the quality of life in a variety of ways.

Aiming to Improve the Quality of Life through Textile Products

Gunze established the QOL Research Center in 2014 to enhance health and medical care, with a focus on improving patients' quality of life, especially in the aging population. The company aims to support those who want to maintain or improve their quality of life despite illness.

Gunze's Medicure brand offers low-irritation textiles to support patient self-care. Developed from feedback from the healthcare community and Gunze's textile expertise, these products leverage the company's experience in human physiology and advanced engineering. The designs minimize skin irritation by eliminating seams and using unique fabric bonding and cut-off technology to avoid contact with painful areas, and are customizable to the patient's needs. This is especially beneficial for those who experience irritation from post-surgical scars or discomfort from radiation therapy.

Gunze is also developing new products to address broader patient concerns, such as a seamless, long tubular cover that provides light compression to help with edema and skin tears in medical settings.



Medicure Products



New tubular covers
under development

My thoughts on Medicure product development

In developing Medicure products, my goal is to create safe and effective solutions for people with skin problems or functional limitations due to disease. I want to help people who face daily challenges to regain their quality of life, especially those who want to return to society.

Medicure targets issues such as post-operative pain, skin sensitivity during radiotherapy and hair loss due to drug therapy, helping patients to self-care.

Understanding patient needs is crucial, so I regularly attend conferences with healthcare professionals and use surveys to gather accurate information for product development. I also strive to reach professionals who don't attend events by sharing product information through newsletters and social media.



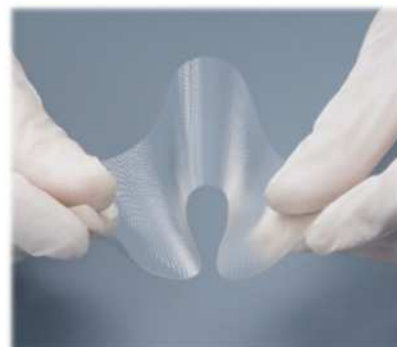
Ms. Kawasaki Gunze
Research & Planning

Easy-to-Use Adhesion Barrier Sheet for Laparoscopic Surgery

Gunze makes medical devices that improve quality of life. These include devices for regenerative, minimally invasive, and personalized treatments. The company also has a system for sharing medical devices with Japanese hospitals. It works with hospitals in Japan and abroad. Products made from bioabsorbable polymers include sutures, bone fixation devices, reinforcement felt, and adhesion barrier sheets. This issue introduces the new absorbable adhesion barrier sheets launched in Japan in March 2022.

This product prevents adhesions after surgery. Adhesions are when organs that are normally separate become connected after surgery. Adhesions happen a lot during surgery and can cause problems like blocked intestines and infertility. Sometimes, they may need to be treated with adhesion separation in the next surgery. This adhesion prevention material is a thin membrane made from synthetic polymers that is placed over the surgical site to prevent contact between organs and reduce the risk of adhesion. It is absorbed by the body, so it can be used safely. It is mainly used in abdominal and gynecological surgery.

More laparoscopic surgeries are being done every year. These surgeries have smaller wounds and are easier on the body. This trend will continue as the elderly population grows. This anti-adhesion material is designed to meet these needs. (1) Easy to use: GUNZE's special processing technology makes it flexible and easy to use. (2) Blends with tissues: Gels with intra-abdominal moisture and blends with tissues. (3) Moderate adhesive strength: Allows for positional adjustment after application. These features are well received and used in clinical settings.



Bioabsorbable adhesion barrier sheet

The objective is to raise awareness of Japan's first adhesion barrier sheet

Adhesion barrier sheets are available in both sheet and spray forms, with Gunze's product being offered as a sheet. The key strengths of our product are its durability and ease of use. The products are applied at the final stage of surgery, just before the wound is closed. This is often a time when surgeons experience peak fatigue, especially during lengthy laparoscopic procedures that can be both physically and mentally demanding.

Despite these challenging conditions, our product is highly valued for its effectiveness in preventing adhesions with minimal time and effort, leading to a steady increase in its use.

Having been involved with the product since its introduction, I have observed its particular advantages in minimally invasive surgeries, such as laparoscopic and robotic procedures. The product's detailed specifications and size were designed with the specific needs and feedback of Japanese medical professionals in mind.

As a relatively new player in the adhesion prevention market, we are committed to training our sales team to listen and work closely with medical professionals. It is critical that we quickly expand our market presence and create an environment where our products are easily accessible and selectable by medical professionals throughout Japan.



Ms. Maruta
Gunze Medical

Provide Enriching Experiences for Children through Swim Lessons beyond the Classroom

Gunze Sports provides swimming lessons to elementary schools on a contract basis. As more municipalities turn to private operators for these services due to aging school pools and increasing demands for maintenance and teacher training, Gunze Sports stands out for its comprehensive approach. While most sports clubs focus on water acclimatization and swimming techniques such as the crawl and breaststroke, Gunze Sports also emphasizes safety through specialized lessons designed to prevent accidents.

Our curriculum is designed to minimize water-related incidents by incorporating critical safety training. This includes strategies for dealing with potential drowning situations, such as maintaining composure to avoid panic. Lessons also include practical exercises, such as using familiar objects (e.g., 2-liter plastic bottles) as flotation devices if staying afloat while awaiting rescue becomes difficult. Through these measures, Gunze Sports strives to improve safety and reduce the risk of accidents.



Swimming lessons at Gunze Sports Kyoto Yawata

My thoughts on managing school swimming lessons

When teaching school swimming, my first priority is to ensure the safety and enjoyment of the children. School swimming in Japan began in the early Showa period, driven by an increased awareness of safety after maritime accidents. It was believed that teaching swimming, especially to children, would help prevent water-related accidents. As a result, schools made efforts to install swimming pools and provide regular lessons.

However, my approach goes beyond simply teaching swimming skills. I focus on helping children overcome their fear of water and build confidence in their swimming abilities. To achieve this, I implement strict safety measures and tailor lessons to each child's skill level and psychological needs. In addition, I strive to make the experience enjoyable by incorporating 5 to 10 minutes of playtime at the end of each lesson, which builds interest and motivation.

Ultimately, my goal is not only to teach swimming skills, but also to help children develop confidence and find joy in swimming.



Mr. Murakami
Gunze Sports

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