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## Ethicon Endo-Surgery wins FDA OK for device study

**Business Courier of Cincinnati**

The Food and Drug Administration has granted Ethicon Endo-Surgery's request to investigate devices for "natural orifice" endoscopic surgery, the company said Wednesday. The study will evaluate the safety of Ethicon's natural orifice transluminal endoscopic surgery (NOTES) Toolbox, a suite of devices designed for surgeries via natural orifices, such as the mouth, eliminating external incisions. It will involve 40 subjects undergoing a cholecystectomy (gallbladder removal) or exploratory surgery for chronic pelvic pain. Surgeons will use one of four NOTES techniques in each case.

"The trial marks an important step in the continued effort to improve surgery for patients and reduce the overall trauma to the body," said Dr. Eric Hungness, of Northwestern University, in the release.

Northwestern will be one of the trial sites for the study, along with the University of California-San Diego, Ohio State University and the University of Missouri. Blue Ash-based Ethicon is a unit of Johnson & Johnson Co. (NYSE: JNJ), headquartered in New Brunswick, N.J.