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LATEST NEWS

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Legacy licenses pelvic sling

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A pelvic sling developed at the Biomechanics Laboratory at Portland's Legacy Clinical Research has been licensed to The Seaberg Company Inc. of Newport, Ore.

The sling can be used at accident scenes to stabilize broken pelvises. Legacy leaders predict the device could one day be carried on ambulances to treat suspected pelvic injuries, just as cervical collars are now used in the field to treat suspected neck and spinal injuries.

The U.S. military has expressed interest in the device, and the Legacy Biomechanics Laboratory has received inquiries on the availability of the device from over a dozen countries, according to a statement released by Legacy.

The Seaberg Co. will market the device--called the SAM Sling--to paramedics and other emergency response agencies. Traumatic fractures to the pelvis have a high mortality rate due mainly to internal bleeding.

Historically, emergency medical personnel treated pelvic fractures by tying a bed sheet around the patient's hips. Because this older procedure is difficult to apply and control, it is not considered safe or effective.

The pelvic sling is similar in appearance to the belts worn by people who do heavy lifting. Positioned low on the patient's hips, the device, when tightened, decreases blood loss. Two people pull on either side of the belt buckle, snapping it into place, realigning the fractured pelvis. The device applies pressure to the pelvis, and the soft tissue surrounding the bone protects the pelvis until the patient arrives at a hospital.