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Manny:

We have been implanting prostates with seeds for over eight years. During this time period we have considered implanting with strands of seeds. We have not done this for several reasons:

- Needing to cut the standard strands to fit our non-standard needle loading patterns.
- Chance of accidentally cutting a seed.
- Uncertainty in the spacing of seeds in needles with cut strands.
- Difficulty in auto-radiographing needles after cutting strands in a sterile environment.
- Longer exposure times while cutting the strands as opposed to loading the needles or using pre-loaded needles.
- Higher cost.
- Increased chance of trauma to the urethra from a strand perforation.

We have completed several prostate seed implants using your new pre-loaded, customized strand option. We have noticed many improvements in our prostate seed program:

- The ability to order unique seed-strand loading patterns per needle.
- Eliminating the need for cutting.
- Accurate seed position in non-standard loadings.
- Pre auto-radiographed needles.
- Improved post implant seed distributions with the strands due to reduced migration.
- Reduction of the chance for urethra perforation with the use of pre-loaded "loose" seeds and spacers in needles surrounding the urethra.
- Unique loading of stranded seeds at the same cost as standard strand loading.
- Lower total occupational exposure with the pre-loaded and pre-sterilized needles.

Thank you for offering this innovation,

Jeff Limmer, MS Ed, MSc, DABR
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