Making surgery safer: Can we patch the problem?
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Major surgery is dangerous
• Complications such as infections can seriously affect a patient’s recovery.
• Identifying complications early helps to reduce their impact.
• To detect complications, nurses routinely monitor patients’ vital signs (heart rate, breathing rate, temperature, oxygen levels and blood pressure) at regular intervals.
• Continuous monitoring might allow complications to be detected earlier.
• This may reduce the length of stay in hospital and the need for critical care.

Remote monitoring is effective
Those that received continuous monitoring had:
• fewer serious complications
• less chance of being admitted to intensive care
• a shorter hospital stay

Patients like wearing the patch
• Patients found the patch comfortable.
• Patients reported feeling safer whilst wearing it.

The patch is cost-effective
• The patch could be cost-effective by reducing the likelihood of serious complications after major surgery.

Evaluating the patch
• To determine effectiveness: Feasibility randomised controlled trial
• To determine patient satisfaction: Questionnaires
• To determine cost-effectiveness: Early economic analysis

Next steps
• A definitive trial will establish the benefits of continuous monitoring on a wider scale.