

SURGICAL SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Jessica Carlson

Simplifying Retraction with REVEEL

Jessica Carlson, M.D. is an accomplished general surgeon, affiliated with Curry General Hospital in Gold Beach, Oregon. With a robust surgical repertoire—including complex hernia repairs, colon, gallbladder, appendix, and small intestine surgeries—Dr. Carlson is known for her broad expertise and vocal commitment to patient safety.

Working predominantly in minimally invasive surgery within the upper abdominal space, many procedures Dr. Carlson performs require her to mobilize the patient's liver to expose the surgical field for optimal visualization. This aspect of general surgery has led her to become familiar with various types of liver retractors.



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Rethinking Retraction

From the more modern hand-held inflatable and flexible metallic paddles to the traditional clamp-bound stainless-steel hook-type retractors, Dr. Carlson has used nearly all the available options throughout her surgical career. "I remember going through med school and residency and hating all the liver retractors. When I came to this hospital, I said, 'I just need a good liver retractor.'"

Serving a patient population that includes many elderly individuals, those with high-BMI, and patients who often delay seeking care until absolutely necessary, Dr. Carlson frequently encounters the need to safely and effectively mobilize large, inflamed livers during surgery. Having a reliable retraction solution is essential.

Enter Microline's REVEEL Retractor—a device Dr. Carlson describes as a standout in both simplicity and performance.

"By the end of the first case [using REVEEL], I thought it was so much better than anything I'd been using," Dr. Carlson recounts. "The thing I don't like about other devices is they're difficult to put in, they're difficult to set right. I felt like I was readjusting them all the time."

"The great thing about REVEEL is that I don't have to waste an assistant's hands. I can just clamp it, and it'll be out of the way." She notes, "It's just so easy to use, yet it does such a great job of retracting the liver, so I have better visualization."

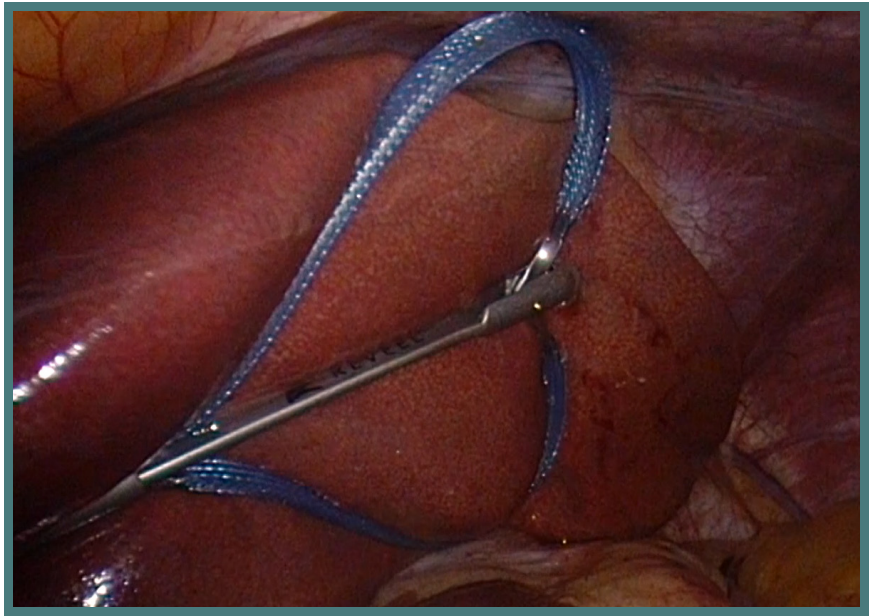
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Versatile, Efficient, and Safe

Dr. Carlson uses REVEEL across a wide range of procedures, including gallbladder surgeries, Nissen fundoplication, and various gastric operations. Its adaptability has proven valuable in less typical cases as well.

"I've even used it for a splenectomy, [because] the person had a really big liver. It got that liver out of my way, so I could do a better dissection around the splenic vessels."

She also values the device's ergonomic and intuitive design. "It's not a heavy device. It's not bulky, so it's easy to get it secured."



Fully-actuated REVEEL Retractor during laparoscopic sleeve gastrectomy.

Even first-time surgical assistants can be brought up to speed quickly. "If I have a medical student that's never been in surgery, I can hand them this thing and say, 'Here. This is how you hold it, there's the liver, keep it out of my way.'"

In terms of placement, Dr. Carlson typically positions REVEEL in the right mid-abdomen, along the anterior axillary line, adding, "The whole retractor is off to the side, not in the way of any other instrument or any dissection."

A Culture of Safety

As President of the Medical Staff at Curry General, Dr. Carlson emphasizes that patient safety is paramount and forms the basis for their approach to care. She explains how the superior visualization provided by REVEEL supports this mission:

"If I can see better, surgery will go smoother and, therefore, less likely to have complications."

Beyond improved visualization, Dr. Carlson also values REVEEL's gentle design, which minimizes the risk of tissue trauma—particularly during longer procedures with oversized, inflamed livers:

"If you have a longer case and one of those big heavy metal retractors, you may see some trauma to the liver. I never see that with REVEEL. I've been really pleased with the lack of trauma to the liver."

Insights from the OR:

- Fast, Intuitive Setup
- Efficient, Reliable Retraction
- Exceptional Visualization with Gentle Tissue Handling

For more information, visit www.microlinesurgical.com.

