### Health problem addressed

Operating tables provide an elevated surface that supports the patient’s body during surgical procedures, stabilizing the patient’s position and providing optimal exposure of the surgical field. They are designed to allow procedure-specific patient positioning. Orthopedic tables include specific apparatus for supporting and/or providing traction for the patient's limbs during orthopedic procedures. Applications for these tables include both upper-extremity procedures.

### Product description

Tables typically consist of a rectangular top made of metal, plastic, or a metal/plastic/carbon-fiber composite supported by a fixed base (pedestal) or a movable, swivel-caster base. Fixed-base operating tables are available with tops that can be interchanged to accommodate specific surgical procedures; the tops can also be transferred to trolleys to transport patients to and from the OR. Orthopedic tables also have padding for upper-body support, a perineal post, an apparatus for lower-body support, and any number of orthopedic accessories. Some orthopedic upper-body supports are interchangeable to accommodate specific orthopedic procedures; other models are available with tabletops that allow the conversion of the orthopedic table to a full-length surgical table.

### Principles of operation

Tables and their individual segments are raised and lowered by mechanical gears or hydraulic piston systems using manual controls or electrical controls. The table can be placed in the Trendelenburg, reverse-Trendelenburg, laterally tilted, or standard horizontal position. The Trendelenburg and reverse-Trendelenburg positions may be used in orthopedic procedures to decrease the risk of shock. Manipulating the tabletop and its individual segments allows the hospital staff to position the patient for specialized surgical procedures. Operating and orthopedic tables can also have radiolucent tunnel tops and extensions, which allow the insertion of an x-ray cassette beneath a specific area of the body.

### Operating steps

- **Type of procedure is determined.** Any accessories determined necessary for that procedure are attached before the patient is positioned.
- **Patient is placed and positioned on the table.**

### Reported problems

Fires may be caused by liquids seeping into the base of OR tables and shorting the tables’ electrical systems. Service technicians, housekeeping personnel, and OR staff need to be aware of the safety implications of liquid ingress when repairing, cleaning, or working around OR tables. Users should be aware that exceeding a table’s weight limit can cause it to slip out of position or tip over. Problems involving improper padding (e.g., slipping from incorrect fitting) have also been reported. Removable tabletops for orthopedic procedures must be placed in the correct position.

### Use and maintenance

**User(s):** Surgeons; assisting surgeons; nurses; other medical staff

**Maintenance:** Biomedical engineering staff and/or service contract with the manufacturer or third-party organization; OEM servicers

**Training:** Initial training by manufacturer; operator’s manuals; user’s guide

### Environment of use

**Settings of use:** Hospital operating room (ensuring room has minimum dimensions to accommodate the table)

**Requirements:** Stable power source (if line-powered); adequate batteries (if battery-powered)

### Product specifications

- **Approx. dimensions (mm):** 1219 x 584 x 2819
- **Approx. weight (kg):** 282
- **Consumables:** NA
- **Price range (USD):** 2,000-65,000 (30,000 typical); price covers all types and variations
- **Typical product life time:** 15 years
- **Shelf life (consumables):** NA

### Types and variations

- Line-powered
- Battery-powered

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**Other common names:** Orthopedic traction tables