

TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR USING THE AWSOME DATABASE

1. The **AWSOME Database** has been created by ArFiCo Surgical.
The content of the platform is the intellectual property of ArFiCo Surgical. The written permission of ArFiCo Surgical Management is required to duplicate any part of this database.
2. With account creation, the User grants the **AWSOME Database** management team the permission to contact the User in case of system warnings, data integrity concerns, updates and invitations to join scientific groups.
3. The **AWSOME Database** is managed by ArFiCo Surgical, an organization under Belgian law. The mission of ArFiCo Surgical is available at <https://arficosurgical.com>. Any questions can be addressed to info@arficosurgical.com
4. The **AWSOME Database** is currently free for use by surgeons.
5. Only surgeons will be allowed to create an account for use of the **AWSOME Database**. By using this database, the User permits the **AWSOME Database Management** to check the User's identity as a surgeon.
It is strongly recommended that the User not allow access to their account by others.
6. The User of the **AWSOME Database** maintains access to their data and may extract the data for external evaluation and publication.
7. If the User makes his/her data public in oral presentations or scientific publications, the **AWSOME Database** should be referenced as the source of data hosting.
Reference: *Data development and hosting via AWSOME Database, a scientific platform of ArFiCo Surgical.*
8. The User is responsible for the **ANONYMITY** of the patient data in the **AWSOME Database**. **No identifying data should be entered.** This includes, but is not limited to the following: name, date of birth, height, weight, or any other information that allows patient identification.
9. The Users can identify their data through the unique **AWSOME Database Case Number**. This unique case number will not allow **AWSOME Database staff** to identify the patient. This unique case number and link to the patient identity will need to be stored securely by the User.
10. Per GDPR regulations- it is the User's responsibility to maintain the link between the patient and the unique case number and delete all entered data when requested by a patient.
11. The **AWSOME Database Project Manager** may delete data that are determined to be incorrect or against the terms and regulations of the database (patient privacy violation).
12. All data collected by **AWSOME Database** will be hosted in Germany under the regulations of GDPR by Olyro GmbH, an independent software solution engineering company.
13. The server of the **AWSOME Database** is hosted by Hetzner GmbH, Falkenstein, Germany (certified ISO 27001).
14. ArFiCo Surgical will maintain access to the overall, anonymous data for general data review, post-marketing-surveillance studies and publications. A yearly publication of the overall anonymous data will be provided.
Summary measures will only be reported at a national level, and not at an institution or individual level.
15. If Users enter into an agreement to combine their data for data extraction, this data then becomes accessible to the group manager.
However, the User's data cannot be edited by other users of this group or by the group manager.
16. It is strongly recommended that the Users contact their local Ethics Committee or Institutional Review Board, where the registered operations are being performed, to obtain approval for use of the **AWSOME Database**.
ArFiCo Surgical is not responsible in obtaining local Ethics Committee or Institutional Review Board approval.
17. ArFiCo Surgical will oversee the database as a good "house-keeper". In the unexpected event of loss of data, no claims for financial compensation may be made by the User.
18. All data in the **AWSOME Database** will be regularly backed up. A real-time monitoring log will be kept of all data entered into the **AWSOME Database** and can be accessed by the **AWSOME Database Project Manager**.

19. ArFiCo Surgical may decide to ask a subscription fee from the Users to sustain the **AWSOME Database** if financial support by the European Hernia Society and from Industry partners is insufficient.
20. If ArFiCo Surgical is unable to maintain adequate financial sponsorship to support the **AWSOME Database**, the database may cease to function. In this unexpected event of cessation of the project, no claims for financial compensation may be made by the User.