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**Abo** **Do you suffer from a snap finger?**

# Hand surgery is being revolutionised in MuttENZ

Frédéric Schuind, CEO of the medtech start-up Spirecut, has developed a surgical instrument that can operate on the snapping finger without an incision.



[Dorothea Goose](#)

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With this high-precision instrument, the palm is merely punctured. An incision is no longer necessary.

Photo: Kostas Maros

50,000 operations are performed in Switzerland every year to treat carpal tunnel syndrome and snapping finger, two widespread functional disorders of the hand. But even if it is a routine operation, the patient must expect to miss work for about a month afterwards. If complications arise, there is a high probability that the patient will not be able to return to his or her old job.



Frédéric Schuind, CEO of the start-up Spirecut, has more projects in the pipeline.

Photo: Kostas Maros

As an experienced specialist in hand surgery, Frédéric Schuind has performed numerous operations of this kind. For many years he led

he was professor of surgery at the orthopaedic department of the Erasmus Hospital in Brussels. At the age of 65, he retired with the goal of finally becoming an entrepreneur. All his knowledge and the research results of the past years were to contribute to taking hand surgery a decisive step forward.

### **No incision is necessary during the procedure**

In 2020, the 68-year-old founded the start-up Spirecut in Freiburg and began to develop ultrasound-guided instruments that require only a minimally invasive procedure for the operation of carpal tunnel syndrome and trigger finger. This method has two advantages: it minimises the risk of injuring nerves in the hand, which can lead to complications, and it only requires a puncture of the hand, not an incision.

The patient does not have to wear a bandage afterwards and can go straight back to his normal activities. This is not only a big plus for the patient, but also saves the insurance companies a lot of money. Cost savings also result from the fact that the operation can be performed on an outpatient basis and only takes a few minutes.

## Further application methods in the pipeline

Last March, the company moved its headquarters to MuttENZ, more precisely to the 5th Floor, a co-working and innovation facility. The move was made with the support of "100 fürs Baselbiet", an initiative of the Basellandschaftliche Kantonalbank (BLKB). "It was also interesting for us to move to a dynamic canton where medtech and life sciences are very important," says Schuind. "The University of Applied Sciences is also very important for us, so that we can continue our research there and develop further instruments for other areas.

The market launch of the high-precision instruments is planned for 2023, first in Switzerland, then in Europe and the USA. Schuind's team is already evaluating other application methods. "Ultrasound-guided surgery can be used for many other diseases, such as Dupuy's disease. (a benign disease of the connective tissue of the palms, editor's note) and tennis elbow," says Schuind.

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