Adhesions – scar tissue or fibrous bands that form between internal tissues and organs – are an inevitable consequence of surgery. Unfortunately, even meticulous surgical technique alone is not adequate to prevent adhesions. The following chart depicts the 7-day post-surgical healing period during which new adhesions can form.

### DAY 1
Tissue trauma to the peritoneum results in the development of a fibrinous exudate causing adjacent surfaces to stick together and form fibrinous adhesions.1

MACROPHAGE  FIBRIN  FIBROBLAST  MESOTHELIUM

### DAY 3
Macrophages form the foundation of fibrinous bands that bridge tissue surfaces and the adhesions continue to mature.2

### DAY 5
Adhesions are now fibrous and permanent, becoming increasingly vascular and organized in structure including distinct collagen bundles.3,4

### DAY 7
No new adhesions develop after Day 7, however, existing adhesions continue to mature into dense fibrous bands that may include blood vessels and sensory nerve fibers.2,5,6 Adhesions can obscure tissue planes and cause patient complications up to 10 years after surgery.7

Note: Some cellular-level activity statements contained herein are supported by pre-clinical studies.

References