
Urgent Field Safety Notice
Malfunction of ARIETTA Prologue
FSCA-identifier: FE0605/2017(E)
Type of action: Software upgrade

Date: June 7th, 2017

Attention: Hospital / Medical Practice
General Management / Vigilance Manager

To whom it may concern,

Hitachi, Ltd. has issued an Urgent Field Safety Notice for usage of the diagnostic ultrasound system ARIETTA Prologue.

Details of affected devices:
ARIETTA Prologue (diagnostic ultrasound system);
Ver1.1, Ver.1.2 or Ver.1.3.0

Description of the problem:

- Phenomenon:** Operation of ARIETTA Prologue becomes unstable due to contact failure between backend unit (BE, screen side) and frontend unit (FE, probe connection side). This may cause the following malfunctions:
 - The monitor of BE is once disappeared and return to the home screen display.
 - The connection of probe isn't recognized.
 - It doesn't charge the battery of BE in spite of setting the battery cutoff switch to Enable mode.
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 - Although FE and BE are connected as wired communication, it is recognized as wireless and an alarm would occur.
 - It would stop the scanning during the examination and returns to the home screen display.
 - It would freeze the ultrasound image during the scanning (Screen update would stop).
 - The communication between FE and BE would be lost and FE will finally shut it down.
 - A hardware error message would be displayed when the machine boots up.
- Condition:** Failure occurs if the touch panel is manipulated during boot-up or if the connection between BE and FE is interrupted.
- Frequency:** If the device shows this malfunction it may appear two or three times in a day.

Health Hazard:

There is no report of health damage caused due to this phenomenon so far. However, if the operation becomes impossible, the frontend unit side is shut down due to safety function. Therefore the unintended ultrasound energy output which may cause serious health damage is unlikely to happen. After shut down the system has to be rebooted, this prolongs the examination time.

Advice on action to be taken by the user:

Please ensure the cleaning of the connector part once a month in accordance with the instruction manual "Instructions for Use", chapter 6. After the correction by software upgrade monthly cleaning of the connector shall be continued.

Action of manufacturer/distributor:

Hitachi will provide software to upgrade so that the operation of ARIETTA Prologue does not become unstable even contact failure happens on the connector. The local service organization will contact you for the software upgrade.

Transmission of this Field Safety Notice:

This notice needs to be passed on to all those who need to be aware within your organization or to any organization where the potentially affected devices have been transferred.

Contact reference person:

Please find your local contact person on the cover letter of our local sales organization to this "Urgent Field Safety Notice". We confirm that this item has been reported to the responsible National Competent Authority.

Sincerely yours,

Hitachi, Ltd.



Ryosuke Maeda
Senior Manager
Quality Assurance Division
Quality Assurance Department 1