kink or nib present in the loop of known surgical snares and/or may provide a reaction surface against which the cutting action of the snare is effective. The surgical snare of the invention may be a cold, i.e. mechanical-only effect, snare, or may be used in conjunction with radiofrequency (RF) and/or microwave energy to enhance a cutting or coagulation effect.

According to a first aspect, a surgical snare may be provided. The surgical snare may include: a flexible actuator shaft comprising an outer sleeve and an inner push rod mounted within and slidable relative to the outer sleeve; an end cap mounted at a distal end of the outer sleeve; a nibless loop of wire connected to a distal end of the inner push rod, wherein the end cap includes a passageway for receiving the nibless loop of wire, whereby the inner push rod is operable to retract the nibless loop of wire into the end cap, and wherein the end cap includes a reaction surface at its distal end against which the nibless loop of wire bears when fully retracted into the end cap.

According to a second aspect, a surgical snare may be provided. The surgical snare may include: a flexible actuator shaft comprising an outer sleeve and an inner push rod mounted within and slidable relative to the outer sleeve; an end cap mounted at a distal end of the outer sleeve; a nibless loop of wire connected to a distal end of the inner push rod, wherein the end cap includes a passageway for receiving the nibless loop of wire, whereby the inner push rod is operable to retract the nibless loop of wire into the end cap, and wherein the nibless loop of wire comprises a length of nitinol.

According to various embodiments, there is provided a surgical snare, preferably a cold (RF-free) surgical snare, comprising: a flexible actuator shaft comprising an outer sleeve and an inner push rod mounted within (e.g. coaxially with) and slidable relative to the outer sleeve; an end cap mounted at a distal end of the outer sleeve; a loop of wire, preferably a nibless loop of wire, connected to a distal end of the inner push rod, wherein the end cap includes a passageway for receiving the nibless loop of wire, whereby the inner push rod is operable to retract the nibless loop of wire into the end cap, and wherein the end cap includes a reaction surface at its distal end against which the nibless loop of

wire bears when fully retracted into the end cap. Herein, the term "nibless" may mean "formed without a kink or other discontinuity, i.e. having the same sense of curvature along its entire length. In other words, the loop of wire has no changes in the direction of curvature around the loop.

The combination of a nibless loop of wire and a reaction surface against which cutting can be performed may enable the snare to perform a cleaner cut. This may be particular useful in the removal of small amounts of biological tissue, such as the small sessile polyps that are encountered in colonoscopy procedures. A clean cut may enable better en-bloc removal of biological tissue, i.e. a more complete excision, which reduces or eliminates the presence of rugged tissue following cutting. Rugged tissue has been associated with a high risk of polyp regrowth, so it is desirable to make the cut as clean as possible.

Moreover, the use of heating effects (diathermy) in the colon may also be undesirable because of the risk of delayed bleeding. The present invention proposes a solution that does not require heating, and therefore eliminates this risk. However, in other embodiments, additional heating effects may