

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 13G

INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN STATEMENTS FILED PURSUANT TO  
RULES 13d-1(b) AND (c) AND AMENDMENTS THERETO  
FILED PURSUANT TO 13d-2(b)

(Amendment No.   )\*

Merit Medical Systems Inc  
(Name of Issuer)

Common Stock, no par value  
(Title of Class of Securities)

589889104  
(CUSIP Number)

\*The remainder of this cover page shall be filled out for a reporting person's initial filing on this form with respect to the subject class of securities, and for any subsequent amendment containing information which would alter the disclosures provided in a prior cover page.

The information required in the remainder of this cover page shall not be deemed to be "filed" for the purpose of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act") or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section of the Act but shall be subject to all other provisions of the Act (however, see the Notes).

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1 NAME OF REPORTING PERSON  
S.S. or I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF ABOVE PERSON (ENTITIES ONLY)  
Benson Associates, LLC  
Federal ID No. 91-1797260  
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2 CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP  
  
(a) [-]  
(b) [x]  
-----

3 SEC USE ONLY  
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4 CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION  
  
Oregon  
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5 SOLE VOTING POWER  
NUMBER OF 518,300  
SHARES  
-----  
6 SHARED VOTING POWER  
BENEFICIALLY -0-  
-----  
7 SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER  
REPORTING 518,300  
-----  
8 SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER  
PERSON WITH  
-----

-0-

9 AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

518,300

10 CHECK IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES

Not applicable

11 PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW 9

6.7%

12 TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON

IA

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Item 1(a) Name of Issuer: Merit Medical Systems Inc

Item 1(b) Address of Issuer's Principal Executive Offices:  
1600 West Merit Parkway  
South Jordan, Utah 84095

Item 2(a) Name of Person Filing: Benson Associates, LLC

Item 2(b) Address of Principal Business Office or, if none, Residence:  
111 S.W. Fifth Avenue, Suite 2130  
Portland, Oregon 97204

Item 2(c) Citizenship: Oregon

Item 2(d) Title of Class of Securities: Common Stock, no par value

Item 2(e) CUSIP Number: 589889104

Item 3 If this statement is filed pursuant to Rules 13d-1(b) or 13d-2(b), check whether the person filing is a:

(e)  Investment Adviser registered under Section 203 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 --

Item 4 Ownership

The following information is as of December 31, 1999:

(a) Amount Beneficially Owned: 518,300

(b) Percent of Class: 6.7%

(c) Number of shares as to which such person has:

(i) Sole power to vote or to direct the vote: 518,300

(ii) Shared power to vote or to direct the vote: None

(iii) Sole power to dispose or to direct the disposition of: 518,300

(iv) Shared power to dispose or to direct the disposition of: None

Item 5 Ownership of Five Percent or Less of a Class:

If this statement is being filed to report the fact that as of the date hereof the reporting person has ceased to be the beneficial owner of more than five percent of the class of securities, check the following [ ].

- Item 6 Ownership of More than Five Percent on Behalf of Another Person:  
Persons other than Benson Associates LLC have the right to receive dividends from or the proceeds of the sale of the listed security. No such right to receive proceeds or dividends relates to more than 5 percent of the class.
- Item 7 Identification and Classification of the Subsidiary which Acquired the Security Being Reported on by the Parent Holding Company:  
Not applicable
- Item 8 Identification and Classification of Members of the Group:  
Not applicable
- Item 9 Notice of Dissolution of Group:  
Not applicable
- Item 10 Certification:  
By signing below the undersigned certifies that, to the best of their knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were acquired in the ordinary course of business and were not acquired for the purpose of and do not have the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of such securities and were not acquired in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having such purpose or effect.

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SIGNATURE

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of the knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the undersigned certifies that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete, and correct.

Benson Associates, LLC hereby disclaims beneficial ownership of the securities held by it in a fiduciary capacity as set forth in this Schedule 13G.

February 9, 2001  
(Date)

BENSON ASSOCIATES, LLC

By /s/ Mark D. Cooper  
Member

ATTENTION: Intentional misstatements or omissions of fact constitute federal criminal violations (See 18 USC 1001).