



OVATIO™, WORLD'S SMALLEST IMPLANTABLE CARDIOVERTER DEFIBRILLATOR SUCCESSFULLY IMPLANTED IN CANADA

New technology limits ventricular pacing

Toronto, Canada – February 20, 2006 – OVATIO™, the world's smallest implantable cardioverter defibrillator (ICD), has been successfully implanted in Canada.

Smaller than a pager, OVATIO devices are the world's smallest ICDs. The physiologically shaped, long-lasting devices are capable of detecting and painlessly treating a wide range of arrhythmias (100 - 255 bpm), thereby decreasing the risk for unnecessary shocks.

"I am very impressed by the ease of use and user-friendliness of OVATIO. It's very intuitive and new features like AAsafeR mode are definitely a plus," says Dr. Franck Molin, Professor, Electrophysiology Laboratory, Quebec Heart Institute, Laval University, Quebec City, Quebec, who implanted the first OVATIO in Canada.

Designed to detect life-threatening heartbeats

An implantable cardioverter-defibrillator is designed to quickly detect a life-threatening, rapid heartbeat - a ventricular tachyarrhythmia - coming from the lower chamber of the heart. It converts the abnormal rhythm back to normal by delivering anti-tachycardia pacing pulses or an electrical shock to the heart. An ICD can prevent sudden cardiac arrest, a leading cause of death in Canada with an estimated 19,000 deaths each year.¹

The OVATIO ICD family, which includes a dual chamber, OVATIO DR and a single chamber model, OVATIO VR, contain innovative features dedicated to both pacing and arrhythmia management, in addition to advanced diagnostic features that offer significant patient benefits.

Dual chamber OVATIO DR includes two outstanding features: AAsafeR and PARAD+.

AAsafeR, Monitoring and Promoting the Patient's Natural Rhythm

OVATIO DR features the exclusive AAsafeR™ pacing mode. AAsafeR promotes natural heart activity by limiting unnecessary stimulation in the right ventricle, which prevents onset and progression of heart failure.

PARAD+ (P And R Arrhythmia Detection), delivering therapies only when needed

Since it is important that ICD patients not only receive appropriate therapies but also receive them only when necessary, OVATIO DR includes PARAD[®]+, the most specific ventricular arrhythmia detection software available to patients worldwide today.

PARAD[®]+ is intended to protect patients from inappropriate shocks which may result from misclassified supraventricular tachyarrhythmias (SVTs). This particular software has demonstrated a 99 per cent overall specificity for SVTs in a recently published study², thereby decreasing the risk for inappropriate shocks. It has also been shown that misclassified SVTs trigger 55 per cent³ to 69 per cent⁴ of inappropriate shocks.

"The introduction of the OVATIO family reflects Sorin Group's drive to develop cutting-edge tachyarrhythmia management systems that are capable of respecting the heart's natural rhythm and bringing significant patient benefits. I have no doubt Canadian electrophysiologists and cardiologists will appreciate the ease of use and user-friendliness of OVATIO devices. Although technologically sophisticated, OVATIO ICDs have been specially designed to simplify

implant and followup procedures,” says Andre-Michel Ballester, President of Sorin Group Cardiac Rhythm Management (CRM) Business Unit.

Information about the Sorin Group:

Sorin Group (Reuters code: SORN.MI), a world leader in the development of medical technologies for cardiac surgery, offers innovative therapies for cardiac rhythm dysfunctions, interventional cardiology and the treatment of chronic kidney diseases. Sorin Group includes: Dideco, CarboMedics, COBE Cardiovascular, Stöckert, Mitroflow, ELA Medical, Sorin Biomedica, Bellco and Soludia. Sorin Group has about 4,700 employees working at facilities in more than 80 countries throughout the world to serve over 5,000 public and private treatment centers.

Alanna Fox

Cohn & Wolfe

Tel: (416) 924-5700 ext. 4078

alanna_fox@ca.cohnwolfe.com

Francesca Caprari

Sorin Group

Director, Communications & Industry Affairs

Tel +39-02-6332322 - francesca.caprari@sorin.com

Emily Hanft

Cohn & Wolfe

Tel: (416) 924-5700 ext. 4036

emily_hanft@ca.cohnwolfe.com

Marilena Giavara

Sorin Group

Director Investor Relations

Tel. +44 (0)20 7003 8730

marilena.giavara@sorin.com

References:

1

ww2.heartandstroke.ca

2 Hintringer F. et al. Comparison of the Specificity of Implantable Dual Chamber Defibrillator Detection Algorithms. PACE, 2004, vol. 27: 976-982.

3 Prasad K. et al. Inappropriate Shocks in Patients Receiving Internal Cardioverter-Defibrillators for Malignant Ventricular Arrhythmias. Indian Heart Journal. July – August 1997.

4 Korte T. et al. High incidence of Appropriate and Inappropriate ICD Therapies in Children and Adolescents with Implantable Defibrillator. PACE July 2004.