Boston Scientific Announces CE Mark Approval and First Use of Blazerâ„¢ Open-Irrigated Catheter in Europe

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NATICK, Mass., May 3, 2011 /PRNewswire/ -- Boston Scientific Corporation (NYSE: BSX [1]) today announced CE Mark approval and first use in Europe of its Blazer™ Open-Irrigated Catheter, the Company's latest radiofrequency ablation (RFA) catheter designed to treat a variety of arrhythmias such as atrial fibrillation, atrial flutter, ventricular tachycardia and other supraventricular tachycardias. The product is being launched this quarter in select CE Mark countries.

The Blazer Open-Irrigated Catheter integrates Total Tip Cooling™ Design with the high-performance Blazer™ Catheter platform. Total Tip Cooling Design is intended to consistently cool the entire tip electrode during radiofrequency energy delivery. This is achieved through both internal cooling and external washing of the tip electrode, which is designed to reduce coagulum at the proximal edges of the tip.

The first European procedure using the Blazer Open-Irrigated Catheter was performed at the Hopital Cardiologique du Haut–Leveque in Bordeaux–Pessac, France, under the supervision of Prof. Michel Haissaguerre, M.D.

"The excellent cooling profile, coupled with the high performance Blazer platform, makes this catheter an important additional option for performing complex ablations," said Sebastien Knecht, M.D., Ph.D., who performed the procedure with Frederic Sacher, M.D. "The tip temperatures were lower than conventional open-irrigated catheters during RF delivery, and the bidirectional catheter performed very well, accessing the pulmonary veins with dependable steering and tip stability."

Affecting more than 4.5 million Europeans, atrial fibrillation is an arrhythmia associated with a rapid rhythm in the upper chambers of the heart. Patients are most often treated with anti-arrhythmic drugs, which can often cause adverse side ef
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