German Patient Surpasses 5 Years of Support on DuraHeartâ„¢ Left Ventricular Assist Device

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ANN ARBOR, Mich., July 19, 2011 /PRNewswire/ -- Terumo Heart, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Terumo Corporation, today announced that a patient implanted with the DuraHeart™ Left Ventricular Assist System (LVAS) has surpassed five years of support on the mechanical circulatory support device. Helga Gieseke, living in Germany, was treated at The Deutsches Herzzentrum Berlin (DHZB, German Heart Institute Berlin) and is now one of the longest-living heart failure recipients of the DuraHeart™ LVAS device.

"Now I can breathe again...for years before I received the DuraHeart I was unable to do anything with my children or grandchildren. Since the DuraHeart, I was able to experience the birth of my little grandchild...I can now do things like walk and play catch and am able to participate in the lives of my family."

Mrs. Gieseke's heart problems have been occurring since the 1980's; her first heart surgery was performed in 1994. Between 1994 and 2006, Mrs. Gieseke underwent several procedures including implantation of stents, pacemakers and implantable defibrillators in an attempt to manage her condition. Despite all these treatments, Mrs. Gieseke's condition continued to deteriorate until she found herself unable to walk or carry out simple activities without experiencing chest pain and being short of breath.

Mrs. Gieseke admits that without the DuraHeart, she would probably not have lived to see her most recent birthday. "DuraHeart was my only option; there is a shortage of donor organs, and DuraHeart was my last chance. My family supported my decision {to implant an investigational device} and we have all been extremely happy with the decision and the quality of life the DuraHeart has afforded me."

"It is so gratifying to see patients such as Mrs. Gieseke who have been able to proceed with their lives following the implantation of the DuraHeart LVAS," says President and CEO of Terumo Heart, William Pinon. "Mr
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SOURCE [1]

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[1] http://www.bio-medicine.org/medicine-technology-1/German-Patient-Surpasses-5-Years-of-Support-on-DuraHeart-u2122-Left-Ventricular-Assist-Device-18859-1/