Depuy Spine Launches New System for Neuromuscular Scoliosis

RAYNHAM, MA – December 6, 2011 – DePuy Spine, Inc. today announced the launch of the EXPEDIUM® Neuromuscular System, a new modular system of pre-contoured rods and proximal connectors, open and closed iliac screw designs and wires, designed to help surgeons address spinal and pelvic deformity in patients with neuromuscular scoliosis.
"Surgery for neuromuscular scoliosis is very challenging in that most cases require correction of a coronal, sagittal and axial deformity, including pelvic obliquity. This deformity can occur in patients with little or no muscle tone or in those with severe muscle tone and spasticity due to diseases like muscular dystrophy or cerebral palsy," said Randal R. Betz, MD,* a pediatric orthopaedic spine surgeon from Philadelphia. "The EXPEDIUM Neuromuscular System was designed with these patients in mind."

According to the Scoliosis Research Society (SRS), incidence of neuromuscular scoliosis ranges from 25 percent in people with cerebral palsy to 90 percent in people with Duchenne muscular dystrophy.(1) Surgery is performed in these patients to prevent further curve progression, improve sitting balance and tolerance, reduce pain and improve quality of life.

"The modularity of the EXPEDIUM Neuromuscular System allows for easy fixation to the pelvis without the need for intra-operative modification of implants or complex rod bending. It also allows for the cantilever correction of severe pelvic obliquity and spinal deformity that was previously corrected with the unit rod," said Kirk Dabney, MD,** orthopedic surgeon and associate director of the Cerebral Palsy Program at the Alfred I. duPont Institute in Wilmington, Delaware.

"We heard from surgeons that treating neuromuscular scoliosis is a challenging part of their practice and that they needed a system designed specifically for this type of patient," said Namal Nawana, Worldwide President, DePuy Spine. "The EXPEDIUM Neuromuscular System is that system. It provides a procedural solution that simplifies the correction procedure and optimizes the time in the operating room."

The EXPEDIUM Neuromuscular System is the latest addition to the ever expanding EXPEDIUM portfolio of products for complex spine procedures. The portfolio features a variety of instruments and implants designed to enhance speed, security and simplicity in treating a wide range of spinal deformities.

About DePuy Spine
DePuy Spine, Inc. has worked with leading clinicians, researchers, and thought leaders to

develop products to treat spine disorders for over 20 years. It is part of the DePuy

Family of Companies within Johnson & Johnson, and has a rich heritage of pioneering a broad range of products and solutions across the continuum of orthopaedic and neurological care. These companies are unified under one vision – Never Stop Moving® – to express their commitment to bring meaningful innovation, shared knowledge and quality care to patients throughout the world. Visit www.depuy.com [1] for more information.

*Design consultant to DePuy Spine
**Consultant to DePuy Spine
(1) http://www.srs.org/patient_and_family/scoliosis/neuromuscular_scoliosis/ [2]

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