

Stanmore Implants receives European approval for silver modular implant technology

Stanmore Implants ("Stanmore"), specialists in the design and manufacture of implants for complex orthopaedic reconstructions, announces it has received a European CE mark for its ionic silver treated massive endoprosthesis tumour system ("METS") modular implant system. Silver-treated implants have been shown to materially reduce infection rates in patients undergoing surgery.

The METS modular implant system is a ready to use modular kit, with interlocking junctions, which is quick and easy to assemble during surgery. Stanmore manufactures METS systems for a number of orthopaedic skeletal locations including the femur, tibia, knee, pelvis and humerus. It is estimated that, globally, c. 15,000 patients receive modular implants every year and this market is valued at £120-150 million and growing at an annual rate of approximately 10%.

Silver is a well known anti-microbial agent and Stanmore has incorporated it in around 400 of its custom-made implants (where the implants are tailor made for each individual patient) over the last five years. In Stanmore's procedures using silver, the infection rates have been significantly reduced comparative to non-silver treated custom limb sparing implants that historically have an infection rate of around 11%. Infection is currently the most common serious complication of endoprostheses and may result in the amputation of patients limbs. In addition, the cost of treating an infected prosthesis is considerable and infections often recur.

Stanmore has the exclusive, long term licence to Accentus Medicals Agluna® silver surface modification technology for use in custom made limb sparing implants and patient specific joint replacements. The technology uses a patented anodising process, where the surface is modified through the stitching of silver into the upper layer of the titanium alloys. This surface modification eliminates the delaminating effect found in silver coatings whilst significantly reducing the amount of silver required.

Brian Steer, Executive Chairman of Stanmore, said, "With infection being a major burden on the healthcare system and often leading to avoidable amputations, we are delighted to secure approval for our silver treated METS system."

"There is increasing evidence to support silver's anti-microbial properties and incorporating it into our METS system puts Stanmore in a very strong competitive position. We expect to see demand rapidly increase and we look forward to working with doctors around the world to help improve the lives of patients."

Stanmore currently sells its METS devices in more than 16 countries worldwide.

Posted by Sean Fenske, Editor-in-Chief, MDT

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