Covidien Announces New Surgical Access and Tissue Sealing Devices at SAGES 2012

The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Mar 9, 2012-- Covidien (NYSE: COV), a leading global provider of healthcare products, today announced the launch of three innovative surgical devices designed to provide significant benefits to surgeons and improve patient outcomes. The three are the Versaport(TM) bladeless optical 5 mm trocar and two new line extensions to the LigaSure(TM) 5 mm blunt tip sealer/divider portfolio.

The Versaport bladeless optical 5 mm trocar will give surgeons clear visualization of the tissue layers during insertion in laparoscopic and thoracic procedures. The proprietary cannula design offers excellent fixation for port security and stability. The low-profile design delivers optimal maneuverability, even when the trocar is used in small spaces.

The Company also has broadened its line of vessel sealing devices with the introduction of two new shaft lengths - 20 cm and 44 cm - in its LigaSure 5 mm blunt tip sealer/divider portfolio. This expanded portfolio will offer surgeons more versatility when operating on patients with different body shapes and sizes. Surgeons worldwide have relied on the 37 cm LigaSure 5 mm blunt tip sealer/divider for the device's cutting length, atraumatic grasping, cutting independent of sealing, fast sealing and consistent performance.

These new products, along with Covidien's other latest innovations in surgical device technology, are on display at SAGES 2012, the annual meeting of the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons taking place March 7-10 at the San Diego Convention Center (Booth ?521).

"Covidien prides itself on its strong legacy of surgical device innovation. The Company has launched 100 new products over the last five years and, by increasing our investments in research and development, we're on track to launch another 50 new products over the next two years," said Paul Hermes, Chief Technology Officer, Covidien Surgical Solutions. "The new products were designed to provide significant enhancements to surgeons so they can perform minimally invasive surgery more effectively." New Covidien Products at SAGES 2012: A More Detailed Look LigaSure Tissue Sealing Devices LigaSure technology provides a unique combination of pressure and energy to permanently seal vessels up to and including 7 mm in size, lymphatics and tissue bundles. The average seal cycle is 2-to-4 seconds and seals withstand three times normal systolic blood pressure. The feedback-controlled response system automatically discontinues energy delivery when the seal cycle is complete, eliminating the guesswork. The technology has been used in millions of procedures worldwide and is supported by an ever-growing body of evidence-based research, now totaling over 300 studies published in peer-reviewed medical

journals.

Versaport Bladeless Optical 5 mm Trocar The Versaport bladeless optical 5 mm trocar is the newest addition to the Versaport bladeless family of trocars. Its low-profile design provides for easy handling and maneuverability. The unique "dolphin-nose" tip with V2 geometry facilitates easy insertion and minimal fascial defects. The bladeless optical tip enables clear visualization and identification of the tissue layers on the first entry. The proprietary ribbed cannula enhances fixation, providing port stability and security.

ABOUT COVIDIEN Covidien is a leading global healthcare products company that creates innovative medical solutions for better patient outcomes and delivers value through clinical leadership and excellence. Covidien manufactures, distributes and services a diverse range of industry-leading product lines in three segments: Medical Devices, Pharmaceuticals and Medical Supplies. With 2011 revenue of $11.6 billion, Covidien has 41,000 employees worldwide in more than 65 countries, and its products are sold in over 140 countries. Please visit www.covidien.com to learn more about our business.

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