New, longer radiofrequency ablation catheter treats larger areas of disease

The Associated Press

SUNNYVALE, Calif.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--May 17, 2012-- Covidien (NYSE: COV), a leading global provider of healthcare products, today announced the launch of the HALO90 ULTRA Ablation Catheter, the latest addition to the HALO family of catheters for the endoscopic treatment of Barrett's esophagus.

Barrett's esophagus is a precancerous condition of the lining of the esophagus caused by gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD). Left untreated, the backward flow of stomach contents such as acid and bile into the esophagus can lead to injury and chronic inflammation of the esophagus lining. A proportion of GERD patients are at risk of developing Barrett's esophagus, which can lead to esophageal adenocarcinoma, a lethal cancer with a five-year survival rate of approximately 15%.

The HALO90 ULTRA Ablation Catheter is designed to be used independently or in conjunction with the commercially available HALO90 and HALO60 Ablation Catheters, both smaller focal devices, and the HALO360+ Ablation Catheter, a balloon-based endoscopic ablation system for treating larger, circumferential areas of Barrett's esophagus. The HALO90 ULTRA Ablation Catheter has received the CE Mark and is currently available in the U.S. and Europe.

All HALO products are based on patented technology that carefully controls the amount of energy delivered to the tissue to safely and effectively remove the diseased tissue and facilitate the re-growth of new, healthy tissue. Together, the products offer physicians a safe and convenient solution for the removal of Barrett's esophagus.

A moderate percentage of patients with Barrett's esophagus have segments of diseased tissue that are longer than 1-2 centimeters, consisting of nearly circumferential disease or with patches in the form of islands or tongues emanating upward from where the esophagus meets the stomach. Featuring an electrode mounted on the end of an endoscope, the HALO90 ULTRA - so named because it is double the length of the original HALO90 focal device - is able to shorten Barrett's esophagus focal ablation treatment times, as the device treats twice as much area per energy application as the HALO90 catheter.

"The HALO90 ULTRA is an exciting development for patients with Barrett's esophagus, as well as for those suffering from a condition commonly referred to as 'watermelon stomach,' where chronic bleeding occurs," said Vafa Jamali, Vice President and General Manager, Covidien GI Solutions. "We are receiving positive feedback not only from clinicians who used the device in the esophagus, but also used it to cauterize the stomach bleeding, where patients otherwise undergo

repeated blood transfusions." 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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