Redsense Medical: New product for safer hemodialysis

In hemodialysis, it is a well-known fact that there is no adequate alarm to detect venous needle dislodgement. Significant, or even fatal, blood loss can occur if the venous needle becomes dislodged. The Redsense Medical blood loss detection device is the first product to solve this problem. It will be launched at the annual Dialysis Conference in Denver, USA, February 18-20.

If the artery needle is dislodged during hemodialysis, the dialysis machine will stop within seconds. But if the venous needle is dislodged, completely or partially, the machine will continue to draw the patient's blood until the machine is turned off manually.

Most medical staff believe that venous pressure monitoring – built into the dialysis machines - will alert them if the venous needle is dislodged. It won't. In the US, the consequence is between five and ten deaths per year plus a large number of serious incidents. CEO Patrik Byhmer:
- I've been involved in a number of start-up companies but it's never been this easy before to explain the benefits of a product to customers and to investors.

Redsense Medical has performed clinical tests in Sweden and expects a CE-marking, required for the European markets, during February and an approval from the FDA in Spring/Summer 2007 (Premarket Notification, also known as a 510k application). Production will start Spring/Summer 2007.

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Company: After a number of incidents with venous needle dislodgement during hemodialysis at a dialysis clinic in Sweden, the clinic's technicians contacted a company specializing in medical technology. This co-operation between medical staff and engineers resulted in the start-up of Redsense Medical in 2006. Redsense Medical has offices in Sweden and in the US (Seattle, WA).

Product: Redsense is a blood loss detection device comprising two parts: a sensor patch and a base unit. Connected to the base unit by a small wire, the

sensor patch employs fiber optic technology to continuously monitor the venous needle access point. If bleeding begins, the alarm will be raised by the base unit worn on the patient's arm. To transmit the alarm signal further afield, or to integrate the base unit with other equipment, Redsense is available with Bluetooth functionality.

Hemodialysis: method for removing waste products from the blood when the kidneys are incapable of this. Hemodialysis is typically conducted in a dedicated facility, with specialized nurses and technicians. Although less typical, dialysis can also be performed in a patient's home as home hemodialysis.

Market: There are 1.4 million patients worldwide who are given about 200 million hemodialysis treatments every year. The market is increasing due to an ageing population and the rise of diseases such as diabetes type II. At the same time, the survival rate for dialysis patients is gradually improving.

More information: www.redsensemedical.com