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SURGEONS AT SIS-E SYMPOSIUM CALL FOR ACTION ON SURGICAL SITE INFECTIONS

Surgical Site Infection is the most important problem facing surgeons today, claimed Professor Miguel Cainzos at the 2nd EMEA Symposium on 'New Non-Pharmaceutical ways to reduce surgical site infection', held in Turkey and attended by leading surgeons from across Europe.

Cainzos, Professor of Surgery and General Surgeon in Santiago de Compostela in Spain, told delegates that: "Post operative infections not only destroy the surgeons technical work but they also increase post-operative morbidity and mortality whilst reducing the quality of surgery and hampering the daily running of surgical departments."

As part of the symposium clinical study results for InteguSeal* microbial sealant (www.integuseal.com), an innovative non-pharmaceutical way to help fight against surgical site infections, were presented. InteguSeal* is a film forming cyanoacrylate liquid that locks down bacteria residing deep in the skin as well as those surviving typical pre-operative prepping. Dangerous pathogens in the site of application, including MRSA, S.epidermis and E. coli are sealed and immobilised through the use of InteguSeal*

The presentation from Professor Cainzos was one of seven made at the Symposium organised by Kimberly-Clark Healthcare. New information included:

- ∞ More patients suffer from surgical site infections (SSI) than previously thought with infection rates ranging from 1.4% up to 22% (Ref 1) depending on the procedure, contamination and physical status of the patient. – Professor Miguel Cainzos
- ∞ US studies show that basic procedures to prevent SSI are neglected in around 50% of patients (Ref 2). *"Surgical site infection is a quality issue.*

We need to create quality systems and processes that make errors more difficult and not just be dependent on individual skills and excellence” –

Professor Metin Çakmakçı

- ∞ If only 2% of patients undergoing joint prosthesis surgery in the US have a surgical site infection that adds up to 12,000 a year at an average additional cost of \$30,000 (Ref 3). The recent InteguSeal* prospective, randomized, multi-centre clinical trial in patients undergoing open clean inguinal hernia repairs showed a 15.7% decrease in the number of patients with wound contamination for the patients treated with InteguSeal* *“The cost to health services around the world adds up to billions of dollars” – Professor Samuel Wilson.*
- ∞ Necrotising soft tissue infections – some cases of which are dramatically labelled ‘flesh eating’ – have a mortality rate of 30 – 35%. *“Between 10 and 25% of these extreme expressions of infection develop from contaminated surgical incisions” – Professor Dionysios Voros*
- ∞ New data from 378 patients in Germany suggests that using InteguSeal* microbial sealant cuts infection rates in bypass surgery patients from 4.8% to 1.1% (Ref 4). *“I was convinced of the benefits of the product and we have seen a dramatic fall in the rate of surgical site infection since we began using Integuseal” - Private Docent Dr. Pascal M. Dohmen.*
Migration of normal skin flora into surgical incisions is recognised as the major source of wound contamination. Microbial sealants reduce this contamination by locking down bacteria to the skin and thus helping to prevent infection.
- ∞ *“We are in a crisis of infection. Surgical site and hospital acquired infections and antibiotic resistance are worldwide problems. This symposium has seen a collaborative effort between physicians and industry to reduce infection rates” – Dr Lynne Kelley.*

In conclusion the meeting agreed that SSI causes considerable patient mortality and morbidity and has major economic consequences. It now appears that the problem may be greater than previously thought and is still not fully understood. There is an urgent need for a clearer definition of infection and unequivocal data on new measures to reduce SSI.

InteguSeal* Microbial Sealant is an innovative solution that helps to reduce SSI and data recently published demonstrates the clinical effectiveness of InteguSeal* in

reducing wound contamination and infection. Speakers and participants at the EMEA Symposium concluded that InteguSeal* is a non-pharmaceutical tool for protecting patients from postoperative infections and there is encouraging initial evidence showing that InteguSeal* is able to reduce SSIs with statistically significant results

Professor Cainzos added: "This meeting gave us the opportunity to meet experts from all over Europe, increase our knowledge of the problems and discuss possible solutions.

"I will be happy the day I can operate without micro-organisms in the operating room."

Caption for photograph attached:

Presenters at the 2nd EMEA Symposium on 'New non-pharmaceutical ways of controlling surgical site infection'

From left to right: Professor Per-Olof Nyström – general surgeon from the Karolinska Hospital in Stockholm, Private Docent Dr. Pascal M. Dohmen - cardiac surgeon and head of Tissue Engineering at the Department of Cardiovascular Surgery, Charité Hospital, Medical University Berlin, Dionysios Voros - Professor of General Surgery at the University of Athens Medical School and a founding member of the Surgical Infection Society of Europe, Professor Metin Akmakci - currently President of the Surgical Infection Society of Europe, is Medical Director of the Anadolu Medical Centre in Istanbul, Samuel E. Wilson MD - Professor of Surgery at the University of California, Irvine, Steve Bell – independent consultant from the Agent for Medics Group, Dr Lynne Kelley - a general and vascular surgeon and former Assistant Professor of Vascular Surgery at Yale University, is Global Medical Director Vice President for Kimberly-Clark Healthcare, Miguel Cainzos - Professor of Surgery and General Surgeon in Santiago de Compostela is a former President of the Surgical Infection Society of Europe and currently Chairman of their Education Committee. He is one of the foremost authorities on surgical infection.

Ends

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Issued by Vivid. For further details contact Caroline Rawlinson on +44 1684 854420, +44 7701 036720 or email caroline@thevividconsultancy.com

Notes for Editors:

- 1) The Symposium was part of the 21st Surgical Infection Society of Europe meeting held in Antalya, Turkey. April 30th – May 3rd 2008

- 2) *InteguSeal** is a product of Kimberly-Clark Healthcare and approved by the FDA as a 'liquid drape'. It is a film-forming cyanoacrylate liquid that forms a microbial barrier designed to prevent intraoperative contamination from skin flora. The sealant remains in place for 48-72 hours after which it washes or flakes off naturally.

Speaker Biographies:

- ∞ Miguel Cainzos, Professor of Surgery and General Surgeon in Santiago de Compostela is a former President of the Surgical Infection Society of Europe (SIS-E) and currently Chairman of their Education Committee. He is one of the foremost authorities on surgical infection.
- ∞ Samuel E. Wilson MD is Professor of Surgery at the University of California, Irvine. He has nearly forty years experience as a general surgeon and has published over 300 articles and 9 textbooks with a strong emphasis on the management of surgical infection.
- ∞ Professor Metin Çakmakçi, currently President of the Surgical Infection Society of Europe, is Medical Director of the Anadolu Medical Centre in Istanbul. He was previously Medical Director of the Acibadem Healthcare Group, the largest private healthcare organization in Turkey, where he was responsible for over 1000 physicians across 6 hospitals and 6 outpatient centres.
- ∞ Dionysios Voros is Professor of General Surgery at the University of Athens Medical School and a founding member of the Surgical Infection Society of Europe.
- ∞ Private Docent Dr. Pascal M. Dohmen is a cardiac surgeon and head of Tissue Engineering at the Department of Cardiovascular Surgery, Charité Hospital, Medical University Berlin, the largest university hospital in Europe.
- ∞ Dr Lynne Kelley, a general and vascular surgeon and former Assistant Professor of Vascular Surgery at Yale University, is Vice-President Global Medical Director for Kimberly-Clark Healthcare.

Kimberly-Clark Healthcare

Kimberly-Clark Healthcare is a global health and hygiene leader with world-wide sales in excess of \$1.2 billion. The company's objective is to deliver breakthrough solutions to help prevent, diagnose and manage major issues in three clinical areas – Healthcare Associated Infections, Surgery and Digestive Health. The range of products designed to prevent Surgical Site Infections includes sterilization wrap, face masks, surgical gowns, surgical drapes and packs, Sterling nitrile exam gloves and InteguSeal Microbial Sealant. As part of its commitment to clinical support, education and training Kimberly-Clark has developed a dedicated website www.haiwatch.com providing information about Healthcare Associated Infections (HAI) – including what they are, how and why they occur and what can be done to reduce the risks of HAI.

References

- 1) NNIS System report for 1992 – 2001. Surgical site infection risk stratification by type of surgery. Issued August 2001. Am J Infect Control 2001; 29(6): 404 – 421
- 2) Bratzler DW, Houck PM, Richards C et al. Use of antimicrobial prophylaxis for major surgery. Arch Surg 2005; 140: 174 – 182
- 3) Darouiche RO. Clinical and economic consequences of surgical implant infection. N Engl J Med 2004; 350: 1422 – 1429
- 4) Dohmen P et al. J Hosp Infect 2008 (in press).