

Media release

Straumann product wins prestigious medical design award



Basel, 23 April 2007 - Straumann is proud to announce that another of its products has been internationally recognized for its design and features that provide enhanced benefits for patients: the company's innovative thermoplastic drill template has won the prestigious 2007 Medical Design Excellence Award (MDEA), which will be presented at an official ceremony in New York in June.

Significant additional predictability in just a matter of minutes

The Straumann® Thermoplastic Drill Template provides a quick, simple and precise solution for ensuring optimum implant placement. The template consists of a small titanium tube (sleeve) vertically embedded in a flat piece of a special polymer that becomes malleable when heated and then sets when cool. Prior to use, the template is warmed in hot water and moulded over a cast model of the patient's teeth with the sleeve positioned along the planned axis for the implant. Once the polymer has cooled and hardened, the template can be used in the patient's mouth to position and guide the implant pilot drill, which passes through the sleeve precisely.

The additional contribution to the predictability of the implant procedure is impressive in view of the fact that it takes just a few minutes to prepare the template. Straumann® Thermoplastic Drill Templates are supplied in two shapes and were launched in Europe and North America in 2006, where they are widely available.

About the Medical Design Excellence Award

Established in 1998, the MDEA is the premier awards program for the medical technology community and is the only awards program that exclusively recognizes contributions and advances in the design of medical products. Entries are evaluated on the basis of their design and engineering features, including innovative use of materials, user-related functions that improve healthcare delivery and change traditional medical attitudes or practices, features that provide enhanced benefits to the patient, and the ability of the product development team to overcome design and engineering challenges so that the product meets its clinical objectives. Entries are judged by a panel of independent experts representing a broad range of disciplines including biomedical engineering, human factors, industrial design, medicine, and diagnostics. The 2007 Award will be presented at the Medical Design & Manufacturing East Conference and Exposition in New York on 19 June 2007.

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Disclaimer

The Medical Design Excellence Award is based upon descriptive materials submitted to the jurors and the competition operators did not verify the accuracy of any submission or of any claims made and did not test the item to which the award was given.

This release contains certain “forward-looking statements”, which can be identified by the use of terminology such as “will”, “optimum”, or similar wording. Such forward-looking statements reflect the current views of management and are subject to known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause actual results, performance or achievements of the Group to differ materially from those expressed or implied. These include risks related to the success of and demand for the Group’s products, the potential for the Group’s products to become obsolete, the Group’s ability to defend its intellectual property, the Group’s ability to develop and commercialize new products in a timely manner, the dynamic and competitive environment in which the Group operates, the regulatory environment, changes in currency exchange rates, the Group’s ability to generate revenues and profitability, and the Group’s ability to realize its expansion projects in a timely manner. Should one or more of these risks or uncertainties materialize, or should underlying assumptions prove incorrect, actual results may vary materially from those described in this report. Straumann is providing the information in this release as of this date and does not undertake any obligation to update any forward-looking statements contained in it as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

About Straumann

Headquartered in Basel, Switzerland, the Straumann Group (SWX: STMN) is a global leader in implant and restorative dentistry and oral tissue regeneration. In collaboration with leading clinics, research institutes and universities, Straumann researches, develops and manufactures dental implants, instruments, prosthetics and tissue regeneration products for use in tooth replacement and restoration solutions or to prevent tooth loss. Straumann employs approximately 1650 people worldwide and its products and services are available in more than 60 countries through its broad network of distribution subsidiaries and partners.