Media release

Straumann launches Straumann® MembraGel™, an innovative membrane for guided bone regeneration in dental applications

- *New-generation membrane with advanced PEG technology*
- *Convenient, precise application as a liquid that sets, simplifying surgical procedure*
- *Stabilizes bone graft and provides effective barrier function[1], preventing gingival soft tissue in-growth*
- *Biodegrades and thus does not require removal by surgery*
- *Market introduction integrated in education program to ensure correct use and optimum results*

Glasgow/Basel, 8 October 2010 – At the 19th annual meeting of the European Association for Osseointegration (EAO) in Glasgow, Straumann announced the market introduction of Straumann® MembraGel™, its new-generation membrane for use in guided oral bone regeneration (GBR) procedures.

Straumann MembraGel is a polyethylene glycol (PEG) membrane that is applied as a liquid and sets in situ. As this is an innovative technology requiring different handling to conventional membranes, Straumann is combining the launch with an education program that includes hands-on product training. The company is making the product available only to dental professionals who have participated in the program.

“Straumann MembraGel offers a unique combination of benefits and we are convinced that it will set new standards in surgical implantology. Throughout development, we have worked closely with leading independent experts and have decided to launch the product in combination with an education program because we want customers to achieve optimum results from the outset. This is the appropriate way to introduce new technologies and shows that we take our responsibilities as an innovator seriously”, explained Dr Sandro Matter, Executive Vice President of Products at Straumann.

A large clinical need
Market research[2] suggests that at least one in four implant procedures requires bone augmentation either prior to, or concurrent with, implant placement. Guided bone regeneration involves the use of a barrier membrane to help stabilize the bone graft and prevent unwanted growth of soft-tissue into the defect. The broad use of membranes explains why the global market for these products is estimated to be worth CHF 200 million[3].

Multiple benefits in one product
Commonly used conventional membranes are supplied as prefabricated sheets and have to be cut to fit the defect – often using a template. In some cases, the membrane also needs to be secured by pinning. Furthermore, non-resorbable membranes need to be surgically removed after the healing process has taken place.

Based on hydrogel technology, Straumann MembraGel is applied in liquid form and molds to the defect precisely. Within 20-50 seconds after application, the liquid components solidify, stabilizing the bone graft and providing an effective barrier to tissue infiltration. Preclinical studies have shown that the surgical site is protected over the period required for bone formation[4] with no abnormal soft-tissue reaction[5]. Straumann MembraGel subsequently biodegrades[1]. The product is thus designed to achieve undisturbed bone regeneration, which is a prerequisite for optimal clinical and esthetic outcome.

Clinical substantiation

Straumann MembraGel has completed preclinical and clinical trials including head-to-head comparisons with conventional materials. The results of a randomized, controlled clinical trial[6] demonstrate considerably simplified clinical handling and reductions in application time as well as effective bone augmentation and excellent defect resolution, which are important in achieving an esthetic outcome and good soft tissue healing.

Further clinical data have been collected in an ongoing 'non-interventional' study and a multicenter clinical trial. Data from the clinical program, which includes more than 40 centers in Europe and North America, are being presented in Glasgow in the course of the EAO.

Straumann MembraGel is being launched initially in key European markets, North America and Australia, where it has received regulatory approvals/clearances.

About Straumann

Headquartered in Basel, Switzerland, the Straumann Group (SIX: 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 currently employs more than 2200 people worldwide and its products and services are available in more than 70 countries through its broad network of distribution subsidiaries and partners.

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References

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