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Optiscan initiates first clinical trial for rigid endomicroscopes in endometriosis

Optiscan is pleased to announce that investigators at the Royal Women's Hospital in Melbourne, Australia, have received ethics approval and commenced patient recruitment for a pilot clinical trial to study the use of Optiscan's rigid endomicroscopes in the women's health condition, endometriosis.

Endometriosis is thought to affect up to 10% of women of childbearing age in Australia and some 15 million women in the US. Sufferers may experience a range of symptoms including painful periods, pelvic pain, painful intercourse and infertility. The disease involves abnormal growth of cells that should be located in the lining of the uterus, but which begin to spread onto other organs in the abdomen, where they cause painful lesions that vary in activity during the menstrual cycle.

Endometriosis can be both diagnosed and treated using laparoscopic techniques (keyhole surgery via very small incisions), however both procedures have limitations. Several laparoscopies may be required to establish conclusive diagnosis, and during surgery, it may be difficult to identify all of the tissue to be removed. Endomicroscopy has the potential to improve both aspects.

The present pilot study will assess the ability to predict relevant histopathology results in patients which have either known or suspected endometriosis. A total of 20 patients will be recruited for the study.

In keeping with WHO guidelines for experimentation involving human subjects, details of this trial protocol have been published on the Australian Clinical Trials Registry: www.actr.org.au.

Background

Optiscan is a global leader in microscopic imaging technologies for medical markets. Optiscan's unique and patented technologies enable high-powered microscopes to be miniaturised and used inside the body. The technology enables microscopic imaging of up to 1000 times magnification to be achieved. Doctors can use the technology to instantly see cellular level details of tissue without the requirement to surgically remove tissue (biopsy).

Pentax has been licensed by Optiscan to use its patented miniaturised microscope technology in the field of flexible endo-microscopes.

Optiscan has also announced a collaboration with the Carl Zeiss Group in Germany for the use of its patented miniaturised microscope technology in rigid endoscopes in key Zeiss markets.

Further information:

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