

Hatch Medical to Broker Hemodialysis Graft Stenosis Detection Technology

Atlanta, Georgia - Medical device incubator and technology brokerage firm, Hatch Medical, L.L.C. recently announced that InGraft Technologies, Inc. and their patented hemodialysis graft stenosis detection technology has become their newest client.

Approximately 300,000 Americans currently suffer from end-stage renal disease - chronic, irreversible kidney failure. Of these, approximately 200,000 receive hemodialysis treatments where blood is removed from the bloodstream, filtered to remove toxins, and returned to the body. Hemodialysis depends on the availability of consistent and reliable access to the bloodstream. The most commonly used technique to achieve arterio-venous access is to insert a prosthetic graft, connecting a suitable artery to a nearby vein.

The greatest cause of graft failure is a stenosis at the venous outflow tract caused by intimal hyperplasia at the venous anastomosis. Most graft failures are abrupt, caused by thrombus formed as a result of sluggish blood flow. With more than 200,000 people in the United States on chronic hemodialysis, and a cost of approximately \$10,000 per repair, graft replacement alone is a \$1 billion problem, almost entirely covered by Medicare.

Paul Gianneschi, President and CEO of Hatch Medical, L.L.C. commented, "InGraft Technologies has developed a simple yet elegant solution to detect graft-related venous stenosis prior to inadequate dialysis or sudden thrombosis. This technique can simply be deployed at the patient's station in the dialysis unit, either at the beginning or end of a scheduled dialysis session, and requires only minutes to perform."

Mr. Gianneschi added, "InGraft's Velocimeter allows the dialysis treatment team to diagnose stenosis or sluggish blood flow during a regular dialysis session. This allows for the repair on an outpatient, electively scheduled basis which has been shown to extend the life of the graft significantly, reducing overall costs and improving the patient's quality of life."

InGraft's preliminary clinical findings in over 100 patient uses suggests that chronic dialysis patients experience months of untreated uremic morbidity prior to a clinical event (i.e., thrombosis) that compels the treatment team to emergently thrombectomize and repair the anatomic narrowing of the graft.

Ken Kleinman, M.D., Associate Clinical Professor of Medicine at the UCLA School of Medicine in Los Angeles, practicing nephrologist and InGraft Technologies President added, "Despite improvements in dialysis technology, vascular access remains the limiting factor in delivering adequate hemodialysis. No technological or therapeutic advance has been able to compensate for inadequate blood flow through the vasculature and access remains the 'Achilles Heel' for the patient. Early detection with the InGraft Velocimeter seems an appropriate and cost effective intervention to prevent this 'premorbid' stage of inefficient dialysis and may lead to better clinical outcomes, better quality of life, preservation and extension of graft life, and economic savings."

This technology is available for sale or license to interested third parties through an exclusive agreement with Hatch Medical. For additional information on this, or other Hatch Medical, L.L.C. products and services, e-mail the company at info@hatchmedical.com. This release and additional news about Hatch Medical and InGraft Technologies, Inc. can be obtained by visiting the companies' web sites at: <http://www.hatchmedical.com>, or <http://www.ingraft.com>.

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