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HydroCision Launches New Oval tip SpineJet XL[®] Fusion Instruments

Billerica, November 13, 2007 – HydroCision Inc. (www.hydrocision.com) announced today the U.S. launch of its new SpineJet XL oval tip fluidjet instruments. Specifically designed to enter tight disc spaces, the new oval tip provides surgeons with a new tool that offers a solution to the disc preparation challenges inherent in spinal fusion procedures. The SpineJet XL Fusion Preparation System allows surgeons to more effectively prepare disc spaces for graft implantation during open or minimally invasive lumbar interbody fusion procedures. This fluidjet powered tool combines the power of fluidjet technology with a unique curette design permitting surgeons to simultaneously cut, ablate, and remove hard or soft tissue – such as disc nucleus and endplate cartilage – quickly, safely and effectively, significantly reducing the need for additional instruments. The SpineJet XL removes 95% more posterior contralateral nucleus than conventional devices¹ and its unique tip design protects against annular penetration. Designed to work in conjunction with all currently available minimally invasive access systems, it is ideal for posterior fusion procedures.

“The SpineJet XL Fusion System optimizes disc preparation while helping to achieve consistently successful clinical outcomes in spinal fusion surgery,” notes Larry T. Khoo, MD, Co-Director, Comprehensive Spine Center, Division of Neurosurgery, UCLA Medical Center – Los Angeles. “Minimally invasive surgery involves very small incisions creating a challenge when trying to remove large amounts of disc material and has proven to be a limiting factor with regard to successful fusion and good clinical outcomes – simply put, it is difficult to introduce classical mechanical disc removal and preparation tools through very small openings and remove enough disc material to ensure that fusion can occur. The SpineJet XL combines everything in one instrument and enhances your ability to clean out the inner disc space in a way that you could never do with conventional instruments – and in less time.” The SpineJet XL reduces passes in and out of the intervertebral space by up to 65%.¹ Dr. Khoo further adds, “This means fewer passes by the delicate nerve roots. So we are not only able to do the procedure faster, we are able to do it with fewer passes by the nerve roots – making it a safer procedure. I believe the SpineJet Fusion System is the best system available to prepare the entire disc space for fusion.”

“The key to successful arthrodesis is endplate preparation, regardless of which bone graft or interbody fusion device you choose,” adds Dr. Mark Grubb, an orthopedic spine surgeon at Northeast Ohio Spine Center (Canton/Akron, OH). “I was skeptical at first as to how much disc material I could actually remove using this device and how well I would be able to prepare the endplates versus using my conventional instruments. I was finally convinced when I did my own cadaver lab study and saw that there was a significant difference. I thought I did a pretty thorough job with my regular instruments, but I saw that I did a far better preparation with the SpineJet XL.” Dr. Grubb further notes, “With the new oval tip design, I can more easily enter into and manipulate the SpineJet XL within tight disc spaces – common in patients with degenerative lumbar disc disease. I can do a more complete discectomy with this system than with conventional curettes and pituitary rongeurs. The new oval tip allows me to now use the SpineJet XL in nearly all my fusion cases.” Dr Grubb further adds, “The SpineJet has replaced a number of tools I once used. Once a surgeon tries this technique, he or she will never want to go back to standard conventional tools.”

“There is no doubt that the HydroSurgery approach made possible by the SpineJet XL Fusion System is an ideal addition to the armamentarium of the spine surgeon and is revolutionizing disc preparation. We believe with the addition of the oval tip instruments to the line, we will now be able to further fuel the double digit growth of this market,” notes Joseph Plante, Vice President and General Manager of HydroCision. “We believe that the SpineJet XL Fusion System will become the standard of care for spine surgeons, because they seek optimal clinical outcomes for their patients.”

HydroCision, The Leader in HydroSurgery, and SpineJet are registered trademarks of HydroCision, Inc.

About HydroCision

HydroCision (www.hydrocision.com) is a leading designer, developer, and distributor of fluidjet-based surgical tools. This new proprietary fluidjet technology is the basis of a new surgical modality, “HydroSurgery,” which has positive clinical experience, novel features and versatility. The Company has developed a broad range of fluidjet-based products to meet the clinical and economic needs of multiple specialties.

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¹ Araghi, A, et al. Disc Space Preparation for Transforaminal Interbody Fusion Using Novel HydroSurgical Instruments, SAS, 2006.