Spine Surgeon at Advanced Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation Adopts New Implant for Spinal Surgery Created Using Advanced 3D-Printing Technology

Tritanium® PL Cage from Stryker’s Spine Division Helps Achieve Spinal Fusion for Patients with Degenerative Disc Disease

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE...PITTSBURGH...June 27, 2017 - Advanced Orthopedics and Rehabilitation (AOR) announced today that Dr. Jocelyn Idema is now using a new medical device created with an advanced additive manufacturing technology, also known as 3D printing, as part of its lumbar spinal fusion treatment options for patients with degenerative disc disease and other spinal conditions.

The Tritanium Posterior Lumbar Cage from Stryker’s Spine division is a hollow rectangular device that is placed in the intervertebral disc space, along with a bone graft, to help restore and maintain normal spacing between the vertebrae, and to stabilize the spine. The cage is constructed using Stryker’s proprietary Tritanium technology. Tritanium is a novel, highly porous titanium alloy material designed for bone in-growth and biological fixation.

In contrast to traditional manufacturing methods, 3D additive manufacturing is a process that creates three-dimensional objects by adding layer upon layer of material. Guided by special computer-aided design software, a focused laser beam melts layers of titanium particles, essentially “growing” the device from the bottom up. The technology gives Stryker the ability to create unique porous structures from a material that resembles cancellous bone, a type of spongy bone tissue.

The Tritanium PL Cage received 510(k) clearance from the U.S. Food & Drug Administration in November 2015 for use in skeletally mature patients with degenerative disc disease, as well as Grade I spondylolisthesis and degenerative scoliosis. Degenerative disc disease is defined as back pain originating in the disc with degeneration of the disc confirmed by history and radiographic studies.

The Tritanium PL Cage provides a new option for the thousands of Americans who suffer from debilitating low back pain due to degenerative disc disease and other conditions. According to the American Association of Neurological Surgeons, an estimated 75–85 percent of all Americans will experience some form of back pain during their lifetime.1 Degenerative disc disease in the lower back (lumbar spine) is a common cause. At least 30 percent of people 30-50 years of age will have some degree of disc degeneration.2

Dr. Jocelyn Idema states that “I’m excited to add Stryker’s Tritanium technology to my spine practice. In patients where conservative treatment has failed and spinal fusion is indicated, the Tritanium technology adds another dimension to successful spinal fusion outcomes. By using this bone in-growth and biological fixation technology, I anticipate that our approach to spine
fusion surgery will become a major game-changer in the way surgeons will approach spine fusion surgery in the future."

**About Advanced Orthopedics and Rehabilitation (AOR)**

Advanced Orthopedics and Rehabilitation has served the tri-county area for more than 30 years and has five convenient locations for superior Orthopedic care. AOR was started in Washington, PA and has expanded to South Hills (McMurray and Pittsburgh), Greene County (Waynesburg), and the Mon Valley (Charleroi). This broad geographic area allows patients more options and convenience to fit their busy schedules. AOR also works to have realistic appointment times to minimize the time spent in the waiting room and also allows for more time with each patient.

**About Stryker**

Stryker is one of the world’s leading medical technology companies and, together with our customers, we are driven to make healthcare better. The Company offers a diverse array of innovative products and services in Orthopaedics, Medical and Surgical, and Neurotechnology and Spine that help improve patient and hospital outcomes. Stryker is active in over 100 countries around the world. For more information, visit www.stryker.com.

###

*Editor’s note: For images, video footage, or animation of Tritanium products and Stryker’s 3D manufacturing process, contact Barbara Sullivan at (714)374-6174 or bsullivan@sullivanpr.com.*


Content ID TRITA-MI-11