

Media release

Straumann BoneCeramic launched in Switzerland

Bern, 5 May 2006: At the André Schroeder Memorial Symposium in Bern today Straumann, Switzerland's leading company in implant dentistry and oral tissue regeneration, announced the Swiss launch of the Straumann BoneCeramic, a novel, fully synthetic bone-graft substitute for augmenting bone to support dental implant procedures. The launch in Switzerland marks the beginning of the product's roll-out to dental professionals in Europe. Straumann BoneCeramic was initially introduced on a selective basis several months ago. The overwhelming positive reaction in the clinical program prompted Straumann to broaden its selective introduction by fully launching in North America towards the end of last year. The clinical program extended to 13 countries and involved more than 600 clinicians.

Straumann BoneCeramic is a novel, fully synthetic bone-graft substitute that provides maximum space for bone deposition and outstanding handling convenience. Its composition of hydroxyapatite (HA) and tricalcium phosphate (β -TCP) gives it two-phases of activity. Firstly it enhances the formation of new vital bone, and secondly it provides a scaffold for predictable bone volume gain. It thus provides the necessary anchorage for implant function and tissue support for esthetic outcomes.

Approximately one in five patients needing tooth replacement does not have adequate bone to provide sufficient stability for a dental implant. Such cases are most commonly treated with a bone graft, although the process of harvesting/removing bone from the donor site in the patient can be painful and is associated with risks. One alternative is to use materials from another human source or from animals, which may be associated with a potential risk for disease transfection. Fully synthetic bone graft materials provide a solution to these obstacles, but available products are limited by their absorption or handling characteristics. Straumann BoneCeramic has an optimal absorption profile and offers excellent handling convenience.

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Concerning forward-looking statements

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About Straumann

Headquartered in Basel, Switzerland, the Straumann Group (SWX: STMN) is a global leader in implant dentistry and oral tissue regeneration. In collaboration with the International Team for Implantology (ITI), leading clinics, research institutes and universities, the Group researches and develops implants, instruments and tissue regeneration products for use in tooth replacement solutions or to prevent tooth loss. The Group manufactures implant system components and instruments in Switzerland and the US and dental tissue regeneration products in Sweden. Straumann also offers comprehensive training and services to the dental profession worldwide. Altogether, Straumann employs approximately 1420 people worldwide and its products and services are available in more than 60 countries through the Group’s 18 distribution subsidiaries and broad network of distribution partners.