



8 December 2004

## More Positive Trial Results for Optiscan

New clinical trial results for diagnosis of cancer in the esophagus were presented at an important Gastroenterology meeting in Washington DC last week.

The meeting was jointly convened by the American Gastroenterological Association (AGA) and the Japanese Society of Gastroenterology (JSGE), to examine major technical and procedural advances in Gastrointestinal Medicine.

Pentax was very active at the meeting and used it to showcase the Pentax-Optiscan flexible endo-microscope system as its flagship new technology.

Following recent publication of positive results in *Gastroenterology*, there was much interest in new applications and interim clinical trial data presented by lead German investigator, Dr Ralf Kiesslich.

The results were very positive and demonstrated that the system is effective in monitoring two important medical conditions of the esophagus; Barrett's esophagus and its precursor condition gastro-esophageal reflux disease (GERD).

Specifically Dr Kiesslich reported that:

- For patients with GERD the endo-microscopy system could predict the outcome of the diagnostic biopsy technique currently used to monitor the disease with a high overall accuracy of 97.5%.
- For patients with Barrett's esophagus the endo-microscopy system could predict the outcome of the multiple random biopsy technique used to identify neoplastic (very early cancerous) changes with the same overall high accuracy of 97.5%.

Modern western eating habits are associated with a growing incidence of reflux disease. Serving to demonstrate how widespread and significant this disease has become, a recent study of chronic gastrointestinal disorders found GERD to be the most expensive, with direct and indirect costs totalling \$10 billion per year. (\*)

Dr Kiesslich suggested that results obtained from these new trials clearly indicated that flexible endo-microscopes are suitable for widespread clinical surveillance of patients with GERD.

"These new results demonstrate the efficacy of our technology in two commonly encountered clinical conditions in the upper portion of GI Tract," said Peter Delaney, Optiscan's Director of Technology, who attended the meeting. "The response to our technology from doctors at the meeting was exceptionally positive."

FDA and CE Mark approval of the Pentax-Optiscan flexible endoscope was achieved in October 2004. Commencement of sales by Pentax is expected to occur in the first quarter 2005.

Further information:

Matthew Barnett, CEO  
Tel (613) 9538 3347  
matthewb@optiscan.com

Bruce Andrew, CFO  
Tel (613) 9538 3398  
brucea@optiscan.com

(\*) American Gastroenterological Association. *The Burden of Chronic Gastrointestinal Diseases Study*. 2001.