



ASX release

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New application for AtCor's SphygmoCor® technology

Study indicates SphygmoCor predicts major cause of maternal and foetal mortality

AtCor Medical Limited (ASX:ACG) today announced that a new study* has indicated a further application for its SphygmoCor technology. The study showed that AtCor's SphygmoCor system, that measures central blood pressures and arterial stiffness non-invasively, can predict the development of pre-eclampsia, which occurs in 3-5 per cent of all pregnancies and is a leading cause of maternal and foetal mortality and pre-term delivery.

A SphygmoCor test, looking for early signs of arterial stiffness, was carried out by a team at the University of London on 210 low-risk women between the 11th and 13th weeks of pregnancy. It predicted 79 per cent of all cases of pre-eclampsia and 88 per cent of early onset pre-eclampsia, which occurs before 34 weeks of gestation.

The study, published in the BJOG, a leading international journal of obstetrics and gynaecology, found that two central cardiovascular indices reported by the SphygmoCor system predicted subsequent development of pre-eclampsia. These indices – augmentation pressure and augmentation index – both measure arterial stiffness.

The authors of the study point out that, because the disease process is already established by the middle of the second trimester, it is likely that successful preventative measures will need to be instituted as early in pregnancy as possible. 'These findings may lead to development of a robust screening model that would be invaluable in the development of an early therapeutic strategy for the prevention of pre-eclampsia,' the study concludes.

'This study points to a promising new application for our SphygmoCor technology,' said Duncan Ross, president and CEO of AtCor Medical. 'If the SphygmoCor system can identify women at high risk of developing pre-eclampsia long before clinical symptoms can be detected, targeted surveillance and earlier intervention will be possible.'

'The study also provides further evidence of the importance of non-invasive central blood pressure measurement as a predictor of cardiovascular events such as heart attacks and strokes.'

* Khalil A, Cooper D, Harrington K. Pulse wave analysis a preliminary study of a novel technique for the prediction of pre-eclampsia. BJOG 2009;116:268-277.

About AtCor Medical

AtCor Medical develops and markets products for the early detection of cardiovascular risk and management of cardiovascular disease. Its technology allows researchers and clinicians to measure central blood pressure non-invasively. The company's SphygmoCor system visibly identifies the effects of reflected blood pressure in the central aortic pressure wave, effects which cannot be detected with standard blood pressure monitoring.

More than 1,900 SphygmoCor systems are currently in use worldwide at major medical and research institutions and in various clinical trials with leading pharmaceutical companies. The company's technology has been featured in over 400 peer-reviewed studies published in leading medical journals. AtCor has operations in Australia, the United States and in Europe. For further information, please visit our web site at www.atcormedical.com.

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