



ACUTE STUDY DEMONSTRATES SAFETY OF VERTOS MEDICAL'S *mild*® PROCEDURE;
FINDINGS APPEAR IN PAIN PHYSICIAN JOURNAL

ALISO VIEJO, Calif. – February 24, 2010 – Medical device company Vertos Medical Inc. has reported that an observational study on *mild**, published in the January/February 2010 issue of the peer-reviewed journal *Pain Physician*, has demonstrated the acute safety of the procedure in the treatment of lumbar spinal stenosis (LSS).¹ The study, conducted by leading pain physicians Timothy Deer, M.D. (The Center for Pain Relief, Charleston, West Va.) and Leonardo Kapural, M.D., Ph.D. (Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, Ohio), found no reports of patient complications related to the *mild* devices or technique.

Study data was collected from a survey conducted across 14 physicians at 12 U.S. centers. The survey called for a retrospective chart review of 90 consecutive LSS patients treated with *mild* between January 2008 and July 2009. The data collected included any complications and/or adverse events that occurred during or immediately following the *mild* procedure, before discharge. Based on a review of the survey results, the study authors concluded that there were no reports of dural puncture or tear, blood transfusion, nerve injury, epidural bleeding or hematoma among the patients treated.

Moreover, Drs. Deer and Kapural compared the *mild* safety data to that previously published on alternative minimally invasive and open surgical treatments for LSS.^{2,3} They concluded that, although informal, their initial assessment of *mild* suggests a “much better” safety profile as compared to the other surgical procedures. They also indicated that treating patients with the ultra-minimally invasive *mild* procedure could “significantly decrease risks while reducing costs.”

Commenting on the study data, Dr. Deer said, “These findings are a significant validation of the acute safety profile and potential future clinical value of *mild*, especially when compared to current surgical alternatives. We believe the new *mild* approach offers physicians an opportunity to treat their LSS patients earlier, with less risk and at less expense, which – in the current health care environment – is a big win for patients, physicians and payors alike.”

Vertos Medical President and Chief Executive Officer Jim Corbett agreed with the study’s impact. “This observational data, which was gathered by two of the country’s most esteemed pain medicine experts and recognized by the peer-reviewed journal *Pain Physician*, underscores the growing physician confidence we are seeing in *mild*. With its acute safety profile now firmly demonstrated, we have moved yet another step towards establishing *mild* as the primary treatment for LSS after medical management but before more invasive procedures.”

About *mild*

The first minimally invasive surgical treatment to provide immediate and lasting relief for patients by addressing a primary cause of lumbar spinal stenosis (LSS), *mild* was developed to provide a new option for patients who are no longer responding to pain medications and epidural steroid injections (ESIs) but who are not indicated for more invasive surgery. Vertos estimates that, at any given point in time, this patient population numbers more than 650,000.⁴ Treating LSS patients earlier and least invasively, which *mild* provides for, reduces overall health care costs.

About Vertos Medical Inc.

Vertos Medical was founded in 2005 to develop a minimally invasive method for lumbar spine decompression to treat patients with lumbar spinal stenosis (LSS), a degenerative, age-related narrowing of the lower spinal canal. Its first proprietary platform technology, called *mild*, is the least invasive surgical procedure for treating LSS, with no implants left behind. For more information, visit www.vertosmed.com.

* Vertos *mild* is FDA cleared for treating central canal stenosis of the lumbar spine.

¹ Deer T, et al. New image-guided ultra-minimally invasive lumbar decompression method: the *mild* procedure. *Pain Physician* 2010; 13:35-41.

² Atlas SJ, et al. The maine lumbar spine study, part III: 1-year outcomes of surgical and non-surgical management of lumbar spinal stenosis. *Spine* 1996; 21:1787-1794

³ Weinstein NJ, et al, SPORT Investigators. Surgical versus non-surgical therapy for lumbar spinal stenosis. *N Engl J Med* 2008; 358: 794-810

⁴ Derived from the longitudinal CMS database

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