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LIFE SPINE ANNOUNCES FDA APPROVAL OF PILOT[®] ROD SYSTEM -- Versatile new rod and post pedicle screw system allows quick one step lockup

Hoffman Estates, IL, February 1, 2007 – Life Spine announced today that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has given 510(k) marketing clearance to Pilot[®], a versatile new rod and post pedicle screw system allowing for quick one step lockup.

Using a unique open and MIS cannulated screw design, the surgeon is able to self-guide, self-tap, and self-drill the screws, eliminating time consuming steps from the procedure. The Pilot system is top-loading, and can be quickly and easily assembled outside the body, and then placed in-situ via the all-in-one drill guides. The system can be locked up inline, allowing for an open or an MIS approach. In-situ compression and distraction can be done directly with the bone screw drill guides. The Pilot screws are offered in multiple sizes and combinations, to accommodate difficult procedures.

Patrick J. Sweeney, M.D., a spine surgeon based in Olympia Fields, IL, said that Pilot's innovative design will provide significant benefit to surgical patients, as well the surgeons performing their spine operations. "By increasing precision and decreasing operating times, patients will have improved outcomes and surgeons should experience lower operative workload" Sweeney said. "The availability of a rod and plate system that Pilot offers gives the surgeon increased flexibility in surgical decision-making."

Life Spine currently markets six different product lines, and received FDA marketing clearance for four of those lines in 2006, including:

Pilot[®] Posterior Plate

The Pilot[®] Posterior Plate offers the same versatility as the Pilot rod-based system with the rigidity and simplicity of a posterior plate.

Utilizing the same open and MIS cannulated screw system as the rod-based Pilot, the surgeon is able to self-guide, self-tap, and self-drill the screws, shaving cumbersome steps from the procedure. The unique Pilot plate screw-locking mechanism allows the posterior plates to simply slide into place over the all-in-one drill guides for quick installation. In-situ compression and distraction can be done directly with the bone screw drill guides. Furthermore, the Pilot Posterior Plate has been engineered with aggressive screw angulation, 20° in all directions, and a low profile of 4.0mm. True to Life Spine's engineering principles, the plate height and screw position can be adjusted on the fly without the need to add or remove washers. The plates and screws are offered in a plurality of sizes and combinations to accommodate difficult cases.

Kinetic[®] Dynamic Cervical Plate

Kinetic features 2mm of fully adjustable internal dynamization per level and an ultra slim pre-lordosed profile. The dynamic plates range in sizes from 21mm to 111mm and levels 1-5. Kinetic has a unique design that allows for generous screw angulation while providing a large graft window, a feature which competitive products do not have. In addition, the bone screws are available in 4.0mm (standard) and 4.35mm (rescue) sizes, in Standard and self-tapping and self-drilling styles. Furthermore, the screws are provided in lengths of 10, 12, 14, 16, and 18mm, and work in conjunction with the company's patented Secure-Snap[™] locking mechanism, which produces an audible and tactile "click" when locked. This unique locking mechanism prevents both screw rotation and backout while still allowing for screw angulation.

Arx[®] Polyaxial Pedicle Screw System

Arx[®] is a top-loading thoracolumbar pedicle screw system offering a massive 80° of screw angulation.

The Arx head design has both a slim shape and low profile while still maintaining extremely high strength characteristics. The head also embodies several novel mechanisms; one that both prevents cap cross threading and another that allows the surgeon to concertedly freeze the screw orientation while compression and distraction are accomplished. The Arx features cannulated MIS self-tapping and self-threading screws that are color coded and available in sizes 4.5mm to 8.5mm in a variety of standard lengths. The ARX system currently accepts 5.5mm rods with 6.35mm forthcoming.

Plateau[™]

The Plateau[™] series spacers are manufactured from Invibio[®] PEEK OPTIMA[®] polymer. The implants are designed to accommodate a variety of anatomies; utilizing large open graft spaces, aggressive teeth patterns and reinforced instrument geometries for added strength preventing insertion breakage. The Plateau spacers are provided straight and angled (7°) with bullet tips in both odd and even size configurations.

About Life Spine

Life Spine is a developer, manufacturer and marketer of specialized, proprietary medical devices serving the orthopaedic and neurosurgery communities. Life Spine is providing a platform for the world's leading surgeons to customize, design, develop and patent new instrumentation and techniques to achieve better patient outcomes.

The company is dedicated to improving the quality of life for spinal patients by increasing procedural efficiency and efficacy through innovative design, uncompromising quality standards and the most technologically advanced manufacturing platforms.

Life Spine, which is privately held, is based in Hoffman Estates, Illinois. For more information, please visit <http://www.lifespine.com>.