



dj Orthopedics Introduces New Patented OsteoTrac High Tibial Osteotomy Plate System; Unique Adjustability Offers Greater Precision in Limb Alignment

SAN DIEGO, May 1, 2002 (BW HealthWire) -- dj Orthopedics Inc. (NYSE:DJO), a designer, manufacturer and marketer of products and services for the orthopedic sports medicine market, introduces the new OsteoTrac™ system, a unique device designed for opening wedge osteotomies.

The OsteoTrac system features a unique patented ratcheting mechanism that allows for intraoperative adjustments for precise alignment and correction. dj Orthopedics has an exclusive license to the patent for this device.

The OsteoTrac system is the result of a collaboration between the company's Alaron Surgical division and the University of Vermont Knee Research Group, headed by Dr. Steven Incavo. The OsteoTrac was conceived out of a desire for an osteotomy system that could be adjusted without the use of an external fixation device as these may cause discomfort and exposure to infection for the patient.

The OsteoTrac is designed to provide fixation following opening wedge osteotomies in long bones such as the tibia. Tibia osteotomies are commonly performed to provide knee pain relief in osteoarthritis patients, delaying the need for a total knee replacement. Fabricated from medical grade stainless steel, the device features a simple design that will accommodate a wide variety of patient anatomy.

"At dj Orthopedics our goal is to provide products that meet the needs of our customers and the OsteoTrac is an excellent example of a product that addresses a specific challenge faced by surgeons in providing improved outcomes for their patients," said Les Cross, dj Orthopedics' president and CEO. "The introduction of the OsteoTrac also marks a significant step in our goal to expand our presence in the surgical repair market."

"In developing the OsteoTrac, we were searching for an alternative to external adjustment devices for achieving proper limb alignment in tibial osteotomy procedures," stated Dr. Incavo. "The unique ratcheting mechanism of the OsteoTrac provides the solution we were searching for and our collaboration with the Alaron Surgical division provided the perfect conduit for turning our concept into a commercial product. We have completed a number of procedures using the OsteoTrac and are very satisfied with the results."

dj Orthopedics is a global orthopedic sports medicine company specializing in the design, manufacture and marketing of surgical and non-surgical products and services that repair, regenerate and rehabilitate soft tissue and bone, help protect against injury, and treat osteoarthritis of the knee. Its broad range of over 600 existing products, many of which are based on proprietary technologies, includes rigid knee braces, soft goods, specialty and other complementary orthopedic products and its recently introduced line of surgical products. These products provide solutions for patients and orthopedic sports medicine professionals throughout the patient's continuum of care.

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