



## For Immediate Release

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### **EKOS<sup>®</sup> Touted as a New and Aggressive Intervention for Treatment Of Chronic Deep Venous Thrombosis at VEITHsymposium in New York**

**NEW YORK: November 20, 2009** - Dr. Mark J. Garcia, Program Director, Vascular & Interventional Radiology Fellowship and Section Chief, Vascular & Interventional Radiology at Christiana Care Health Services (Newark, DE) addressed an impressive audience of vascular surgeons and specialists in New York at the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual VEITHsymposium on a new and aggressive treatment of chronic deep venous thrombosis.

Deep venous thrombosis (DVT) is a common condition with estimates suggesting that the condition affects 600,000 patients each year with up to 100,000 deaths related to DVT.<sup>[1]</sup> Approximately 30% of patients with a DVT will suffer from a recurrent episode of DVT within 10 years, with the greatest risk occurring in the first 2 years.<sup>[2]</sup>

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<sup>[1]</sup> The Surgeon General's Call to Action to Prevent Deep Vein Thrombosis and Pulmonary Embolism. 2008 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Heit JA, Mohr DN, Silverstein MD, Petterson TM, O'Fallon WM, Melton LJ, 3rd. Predictors of recurrence after deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism: a population-based cohort study. *Arch Intern Med* 2000;160(6):761-8. Prandoni P, Lensing A, Cogo A, Cuppini S, Villalta S, Carta M et al. The long-term clinical course of acute deep venous thrombosis. *Ann Intern Med* 1996; 125(1):1-7. Kahn SR, Shrier I, Julian JA, Ducruet T, Arsenaault L, Miron MJ, Roussin A, Desmarais S, Joyal F, Kassis J, Solymoss S, Desjardins L, Lamping DL, Johri M, Ginsberg J. Determinants and time course of the post-thrombotic syndrome after acute deep venous thrombosis. *Ann Intern Med* 2008; 149: 698-707.

<sup>[2]</sup> Bergqvist D, Jendteg S, Johansen L, Persson U, Odegaard K. Cost of long-term complications of deep venous thrombosis of the lower extremities: an analysis of a defined patient population in Sweden. *Ann Intern Med* 1997; 126: 454-7. Caprini JA, Botteman MF, Stephens JM, Nadipelli V, Ewing MM, Brandt S, Pashos CL, Cohen AT. Economic burden of long-term complications of deep vein thrombosis after total hip replacement surgery in the United States. *Value Health* 2003; 6: 59-74.

Dr. Garcia said, “When the thrombus (a blood clot formed within a blood vessel and remaining attached to its place of origin) injures or destroys the deep venous valves, chronic venous insufficiency (CVI) can occur. The symptoms associated with CVI are called Post Thrombotic Syndrome (PTS) and include the spectrum ranging from extremity heaviness or fatigue, swelling and pain, itching, cramps and paresthesia ("pins and needles,"). Signs of PTS include edema, redness, hyper pigmentation, varicose veins, dependent cyanosis, peri-malleolar telangiectasia, subcutaneous fibrosis, venous stasis ulcers, and more rarely gangrene and amputation.”

PTS is the most common complication of venous thromboembolism (VTE) and occurs in 20-50% despite optimal anticoagulant therapy, with severe PTS occurring in 5-10% of VTE patients. PTS has been shown to cause a significant reduction in the quality of life and can lead to repeated hospitalizations and long-term treatments. Many individuals are unable to continue as productive members of the workforce and become an economic burden on society. Using the accepted, estimated occurrences of DVT, one can reasonably extrapolate that there are hundreds of thousands of patients suffering from some degree of PTS. The goal of therapy for lower extremity DVT has been aimed at preventing the propagation of thrombus and occurrence of pulmonary embolism as well as the recurrence of DVT. However, there are few treatment options available for chronic VTE. Current therapies include anticoagulation, elastic compression stockings and extremity elevation, with no high quality evidence to support endovascular treatment methods as an option for chronic DVT.

Garcia presented a series of 50 patients with chronic, hard and occlusive DVT, suffering from PTS, that were successfully treated with a variety of endovascular techniques, including EKOS, to restore flow and reduce their symptoms related to PTS which is a major breakthrough restoring quality of life to the patient. Garcia concluded his presentation stating, “The EKOS EkoSonic<sup>®</sup> ultrasound assisted thrombolysis, in addition to standard angioplasty and stenting techniques, led to successful venous recanalization and patency with improved venous outflow. Our results suggest that the ability to successfully recanalize chronically occluded venous segments in patients with PTS, benefit the patient by reducing their symptoms and allowing them to enjoy an improved quality of life.”

**About VEITHsymposium<sup>™</sup>:** Now in its fourth decade, VEITHsymposium<sup>™</sup> provides vascular surgeons, interventional radiologists, interventional cardiologists and other vascular specialists with a unique and exciting format to learn the most current information about what is new and important in the treatment of vascular disease. The 5-day event features over 400 rapid-fire presentations from world-renowned vascular specialists with emphasis on the latest advances, changing concepts in diagnosis and management, pressing controversies and new techniques. Details can be found at [www.VEITHpress.org](http://www.VEITHpress.org).

## **About EKOS® Corporation**

EKOS Corporation pioneered the development and clinical application of ultrasonic accelerated drug delivery in medicine, introducing its first system for the treatment of vascular thrombosis in 2005. Today, interventional radiologists, cardiologists and vascular surgeons at leading institutions around the world use the EKOS EkoSonic® Endovascular System to provide faster, safer and more complete dissolution of thrombus. In 2008, the company introduced its 2nd generation EkoSonic® Endovascular System with Rapid Pulse™ Modulation, and in 2009 introduced the MACH4e upgrade. The EkoSonic System is FDA-cleared for controlled and selective infusion of physician-specified fluids, including thrombolytics, into the peripheral vasculature. It is currently used to treat patients with peripheral arterial occlusions (PAO) and deep vein thrombosis (DVT) and additional applications are being investigated. EKOS is currently participating in the ATTRACT trial as a supplier of one of the devices permitted for use. Visit [www.ekoscorp.com](http://www.ekoscorp.com)

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