

News Release

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Clinical Study Demonstrates that ONCURA's RAPID Strand™ Offers Improved Delivery of Therapy for Patients Choosing Brachytherapy to Treat Prostate Cancer

Philadelphia (December 9, 2004) - As a global leader in minimally invasive prostate cancer treatment ONCURA™ encourages the publication of data that demonstrates improvements in the clinical application of prostate brachytherapy. A recent publication in the journal Brachytherapy reports on the use of ONCURA's RAPID Strand, and compares its delivery of therapy with that delivered to a group of patients treated with loose seeds.

"The use of RAPID Strand has led to a significant improvement in the effective delivery of planned treatment for prostate cancer," said the lead author, Humberto Fagundes, M.D., a Radiation Oncologist at Missouri Baptist Medical Center. He added, "In addition the incidence of certain urinary side effects, such as retention, showed a significant decrease in the RAPID Strand patients."

This study on 473 patients focused on the measurement of radiation dose delivered to the prostate and the surrounding anatomy as this is a documented method of assessing the likelihood of the long-term success of brachytherapy, as well as the chance of certain side effects. RAPID Strand clearly demonstrated a significant improvement in these measurements, although longer term follow up is needed to determine the exact clinical benefits.

"Dr Fagundes has achieved excellent results using a novel technique, originally described by Dr. Batterman from Utrecht in The Netherlands, in which RAPID Strand is after-loaded into the prostate through previously inserted needles," said Andrew Bright, ONCURA's Vice President of Strategic Marketing. He added, "The technique allowed the use of RAPID Strand in what is often referred to as a 'real-time' approach to prostate brachytherapy and may encourage other physicians who favor this approach to adopt RAPID Strand."

ONCURA was created through the merger of Amersham plc's brachytherapy business and Galil Medical Ltd's urology business. Galil is a subsidiary of Elron (ELRN). Headquartered in the United States, ONCURA operates as an independent business, with a major presence in the treatment of prostate cancer. ONCURA's International business is operated from its UK subsidiary. On April 8, 2004, General Electric (GE) completed its previously announced acquisition of Amersham.