

PRESS RELEASE 21.2.2012

For immediate release

Biodegradable joint implant developed

Tampere University of Technology has developed the world's first biodegradable joint implant, RegJoint™. The implant is used to treat joint damages caused by osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis.

RegJoint™ has now been granted CE marking. It enables the selling of the product in the European Union area.

The implant has been worked on since the 1990's. The final product is the result of the collaboration between the Department of Biomedical Engineering of Tampere University of Technology, Conmed Linvatec Biomaterials, Scaffdex Ltd and orthopedists from e.g. Tampere University Hospital. Scaffdex Ltd introduces the RegJoint™ implant.

New way of treatment

Osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis cause damage to joint cartilage. These are difficult to treat because the regeneration potential of cartilage tissue is limited. The damage makes moving difficult and painful. Until now damaged joints have been treated either by installing permanent implants, or by ossifying.

The biodegradable joint implant offers a new way for treating patients.

The implant has several advantages compared to permanent implants. Using RegJoint™ patient's bone tissue remains unharmed and pain caused by bone friction decreases. It also makes the joint more durable.

The implant is made from a biodegradable polylactide copolymer. It is used to repair damages in small joints of fingers and toes. It is implanted inside the joint capsule between the bone heads. The implant stimulates the body to produce connective tissue cells. The cells gradually fill the implant and replace it. A new joint unites the bone heads in a way that enables normal body movements.

Good patient experiences

The product has gone through a number of clinical tests in Finland and abroad. The patient experiences from the new treatment have been positive.

Department of Biomedical Engineering is part of BioMediTech, a joint institute of Tampere University of Technology and the University of Tampere. BioMediTech's research is concentrated in the fields of bioscience and medical technology.

For more details please contact:

Professor Minna Kellomäki, Tampere University of Technology, Department of Biomedical Engineering, minna.kellomaki@tut.fi, mobile +358 40 706 6312

Managing Director Tuija Annala, Scaffdex Ltd., tuija.annala@scaffdex.com, mobile +358 40 505 3351