



ASX release

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NIH study supports central blood pressure as a treatment target

Cardiovascular events increase significantly when central pulse pressure exceeds 50 mmHg

AtCor Medical (ASX:ACG), the developer and marketer of the SphygmoCor[®] system which measures central blood pressures and arterial stiffness non-invasively, today announced that a new study¹ funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the United States government's medical research agency, found that when patients' central pulse pressures exceeded 50 mm of mercury, there was a significant increase in cardiovascular events. The 2,405 patient study was presented on November 12 at the annual meeting of American Heart Association Scientific Sessions in New Orleans, LA.

Central pulse pressure, the difference between systolic and diastolic blood pressure in the ascending aorta, was measured noninvasively in the study, using AtCor Medical's SphygmoCor[®] technology. While central blood pressure has been consistently shown to be a more powerful predictor of cardiovascular events than traditional cuff blood pressure measurements taken at the arm, this study is the first to show a specific threshold value for central pressure above which risk is significantly increased. No similar threshold was identified for brachial cuff pulse pressure. This is the most powerful evidence to date related to a specific treatment target for central pressures, which can be managed by vasoactive drugs as well as, in some cases, lifestyle changes.

Study participants were initially free of cardiovascular disease and were followed for a period of five and one half years. During the course of the study over 340 participants experienced a major cardiovascular event. The study abstract concluded that central pulse pressure equal to or greater than 50 mm of mercury predicts adverse cardiovascular outcomes independent of other risk factors for cardiovascular disease. It further stated that these findings call for examination of noninvasive central pulse pressure as a treatment target in clinical intervention strategies.

"This is a major development," said Duncan Ross, AtCor Medical's President and CEO. "Many studies have shown that elevated central blood pressure is associated with increased incidence of heart attack, stroke, and kidney disease. This research identifies a specific central blood pressure threshold where events sharply increase, identifying patients at risk who would not be identified with standard brachial cuff measurements taken at the arm. The data from this study will be vitally important to clinicians in diagnosis and drug therapy management—and in pharmaceutical clinical trials."

¹ Mary J. Roman et al. Central Pulse Pressure 50mmHg Predicts Adverse Cardiovascular Outcome: The Strong Heart Study, *Circulation*.2008;118:S_1157

About AtCor Medical

AtCor Medical develops and markets products for the early detection of cardiovascular risk and management of cardiovascular disease. Its technology allows researchers and clinicians to measure central blood pressure non-invasively. The company's SphygmoCor[®] system visibly identifies the effects of reflected blood pressure in the central aortic pressure wave, effects which cannot be detected with standard blood pressure monitoring. More than 1,700 SphygmoCor[®] systems are currently in use worldwide at major medical institutions research institutions and in various clinical trials with leading pharmaceutical companies, and the company's technology have been featured in over 400 peer-reviewed studies published in leading medical journals. AtCor has operations in Australia, the United States, and Europe. For further information, please visit our web site at www.atcormedical.com

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