New study strongly supports measurement of central pressures
Says aortic, not brachial, blood pressure measurement enhances ability
to identify target organ damage

AtCor Medical (ASX: ACG), the developer and marketer of the SphygmoCor® system which measures central aortic blood pressures and arterial stiffness noninvasively, today announced that the results of a new South African community-based medical study using SphygmoCor has endorsed the clinical value of central blood pressure.

The study of over 1,100 adults, published in the Journal of Hypertension¹, showed that using central blood pressure measurement, but not traditional brachial blood pressure (measured using an inflatable cuff on the arm), enhanced clinicians’ ability to predict target organ damage in patients with high normal blood pressure (between 120/80 mmHg-139/89mmHg). Target organ damage measured in the study included kidney disease (as measured by decreased glomerular filtration rate) and heart disease (thickening of the left side of heart muscle and left ventricle as measured by left ventricular mass index (LVMI)).

The study concluded that among people having high normal blood pressure that “central aortic blood pressure values clearly identify the presence of target organ changes”. It noted that a large proportion of patients identified as having high normal blood pressure were not at risk for blood pressure related cardiovascular damage, but clinicians using brachial blood pressure measurement would require further medical testing. The study said this combined approach would incur considerable costs, necessitate the use of trained technicians and not necessarily identify damage attributed to blood pressure effects as opposed to alternative risk factors. In contrast, aortic blood pressure measurements are simple, reliable and reproducible, are likely to incur considerably lower costs and reflect the impact of blood pressure rather than alternative risk factors.’

Duncan Ross, CEO of AtCor Medical said, “This study shows the importance of measuring central aortic blood pressure to identify patients at risk. According to the study, approximately one-half of those with high normal blood pressure considered to be at risk of cardiovascular damage would be excluded from potentially necessary anti-hypertensive therapy if treatment were withheld. The high normal or pre hypertension patient always presents a treat or no treat dilemma for clinicians. Clearly, this dilemma could be avoided if central blood pressure measurement was used.”

¹ Hendrik L. Booysen, Gavin R. Norton, Muzi J. Maseko, Carlos D. Libhaber, et al., Aortic, but not brachial blood pressure category enhances the ability to identify target organ changes in normotensives, Journal of Hypertension 2013, 31:000–000

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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 3,100 SphygmoCor® systems are currently in use worldwide at major medical institutions, research institutions and in various clinical trials with leading pharmaceutical companies. The company’s technology has been featured in over 700 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.

For further information, please contact:

Duncan Ross – AtCor Medical CEO  
+1 (630) 228 8873

Peter Manley – AtCor Medical CFO  
+61 (2) 8815 8811

Media enquiries to:

Ashley Rambukwella – Financial & Corporate Relations  
Ph: +61 (2) 8264 1004/ m. 0407 231 282 or  
a.rambukwella@fcr.com.au