

## SURGEONS COMPLETE FIRST EVER SINGLE PORT LAPAROSCOPIC SURGERIES

Bray, Ireland – [September 13, 2007] – Dr. Prashanth Rao, Dr. Pradeep Rao of Mamata Hospital, Mumbai, India, and Dr. Abhay Rane of the East Surrey Hospital, Redhill, UK announce that commencing May 1, 2007 they completed the world's first series of One Port Umbilicus Surgeries (OPUS surgeries), a revolutionary laparoscopic surgical procedure that eliminates post-surgical scars. The surgeries were made possible by the r-Port surgical port from Advanced Surgical Concepts Ltd. (ASC) of Bray, Ireland.

Physicians perform more than four million laparoscopic surgical procedures each year. Traditional laparoscopic surgeries require between three and five incisions in the abdomen—creating two to four permanent scars. Surgeons have long sought techniques and tools that would require fewer incisions and eliminate scarring.

The r-Port surgical port from Advanced Surgical Concepts Ltd. for the first time enables surgeons to perform true, single port laparoscopic procedures. “The r-Port represents the next major advance in laparoscopic surgery,” said Dr. Prashanth Rao. “During an OPUS procedure, the surgeon places a single r-Port into the umbilicus of the patient and passes all necessary instruments and cameras simultaneously through that one port,” he explained, “and at the end of the procedure, the surgeon simply removes the port and the natural shape and texture of the bellybutton hides any evidence of the surgical incision.”

“We have already completed a 20 patient series of OPUS Laparoscopic Cholecystectomies and have performed many other scarless, single port procedures including appendectomies, adhesiolysis, retroperitoneal inguinal hernia repairs, and ureterolithotomies,” said Dr. Pradeep Rao, “and we are exploring the potential of the r-Port in all categories of laparoscopic surgery.” Dr. Prashanth Rao recently presented the results from the first series of patients at the Congress of Endoscopic and Laparoscopic Surgeons of Asia (ELSA 2007) and was awarded the prizes for best paper and best poster.

The r-Port is the result of years of research and development by Advanced Surgical Concepts Ltd. “We set out with the complex goal of creating a device that would improve laparoscopic surgery for both patients and physicians,” said Frank Bonadio, CEO of Advanced Surgical Concepts. “In addition to reducing or eliminating patient scarring,” he continues, “we designed the r-Port to reduce surgeon fatigue and increase surgeon instrument control.”

Surgeons have traditionally performed laparoscopic surgery by inserting three to five elongated cylindrical ports, known as trocars, into the abdomen. To maintain a tight seal with the patient’s abdomen a trocar has a long rigid access tube called a cannula. The long and narrow shape of the cannula allows only one instrument to be used in each abdominal incision and requires the surgeon to operate using long, straight, narrow instruments that impede freedom of movement and control. The need to operate through multiple locations requires the surgeon to hold his or her arms at awkward and elevated positions throughout the procedure, causing unnecessary fatigue.

Unlike traditional trocars, the r-Port has no cannula and is mounted flush against both the interior and exterior of the patient’s abdomen, eliminating surgical scars by allowing several instruments to be used through one umbilical incision. The r-Port’s™ unique design reduces surgeon fatigue by eliminating the need for surgeons to work through separately spaced, long, narrow channels. Without the constraint of a narrow cannula, the r-Port also makes it possible for the surgeon to use curved instruments that greatly improve access in the surgical field.

“We were able to perform r-Port procedures in a comparable amount of time to traditional laparoscopy procedures and with cosmetically superior and safe results,” said Dr. Abhay Rane. Advanced Surgical Concepts intends to continue working with leading surgeons to publish and present data on additional series of surgeries using the r-Port. “We believe the r-Port delivers patients and physicians the next major advance in surgery” said Frank Bonadio, CEO of Advanced Surgical Concepts, “and we look forward to our continued work with leading surgeons to make single port, no scar laparoscopic surgery the standard of care for most laparoscopic procedures.”

Advanced Surgical Concepts Ltd.

Advanced Surgical Concepts is an Irish company committed to the improvement of laparoscopic surgery for both patients and physicians. The company's leading product is the r-Port. The r-Port is the first access device that allows surgeons to perform One Port Umbilicus Surgery (OPUS) procedures. To date, the device has been used in OPUS Laparoscopic Cholecystectomies (gall bladder surgeries), OPUS Appendectomies, single port nephrectomies as well as a wide array of urologic and general surgical procedures.