Guidant Carotid Artery Stenting System

COMPANY	Guidant Corporation
PHONE	(800) 633-3375
WEB	www.guidant.com/carotid

KEY FEATURES

Acculink

- Conformable stents crafted with self-expanding, crush-resistant nitinol
- Complete set of stent sizes for optimal carotid stent treatment
- 30- to 40-mm tapered lengths to fit individual patient anatomies
- Nominal stent shortening aids in accurate stent placement
- Rapid exchange platform allows one physician operator to control procedure

Accunet

- Guidewire and delivery sheath enter vessel as one unit
- .014-inch wire is torqued independent from filter basket
- Rapid exchange unsheathing for stability and simplicity
- Four platinum radiopaque markers surround filter for visualization of wall apposition
- Dedicated rapid exchange recovery catheter is designed specifically for the challenges of filter recovery

The RX Acculink Carotid Stent System (Guidant Corporation, Indianapolis, IN) is designed to provide easy and accurate stent placement in patients who have carotid atherosclerosis and are at high risk for conventional surgery. The .014-inch guidewire-compatible RX Acculink Carotid Stent System is 6-F sheath/8-F guide catheter–compatible for all available stent sizes. The RX Acculink utilizes rapid exchange (RX) technology so that a single operator can easily control the embolic protection device and stent delivery system during catheter manipulations.

The RX Acculink offers a broad variety of stent sizes so that physicians can select the right stent for their patients. Straight stents are offered in diameters of 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 mm, and lengths of 20, 30, and 40 mm. Tapered stents are also available to match the diameters of both the internal carotid and common carotid arteries. The tapered Acculink stents come in diameters of 6 mm to 8 mm and 7 mm to 10 mm and lengths of 30 mm and 40 mm.

Accuracy in stent placement is achieved through the design of both the delivery system and the stent. The delivery system has a unique and easy-to-use deployment handle designed for accurate and controlled stent placement. On the stent itself, there are three longitudinal spines that minimize deployment shortening, allowing high accuracy of placement. Guidant comments that the nitinol structure is crush-resistant and allows for excellent flexibility and conformability.

The RX Accunet Embolic Protection System (Guidant Corporation) is designed to provide excellent capture capabilities and easy filter control when performing carotid stenting interventions. The Accunet is a .014-inch guidewire-based filter system that utilizes rapid exchange technology so that the physician can easily control the filter during catheter manipulations. It is available in both 190 cm and 300 cm lengths, with the proximal end of the 190-cm device coined to allow for attachment to a "DOC" wire extension. The system is 6-F sheath/8-F guide catheter–compatible and has filters available in 4.5-, 5.5-, 6.5-, and 7.5-mm basket diameters that are recommended for use in arteries ranging from 3.25 mm to 7 mm. The Accunet's flexible cage design assists in maintaining excellent wall apposition in pulsed flow environments and challenging anatomies.

The Accunet's peel-away delivery sheath allows for simple deployment with rapid exchange unsheathing for stability and ease of use. Additionally, the .014-inch wire can be torqued independently from the filter basket to help manage the navigation of tortuous anatomy. Recovery is performed with a dedicated RX recovery catheter with a shapeable distal tip designed to offer steering control during advancement.

Radi PressureWire 5

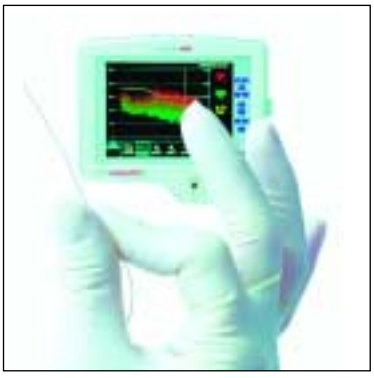
COMPANY	Radi Medical Systems, Inc.
PHONE	(877) 337-7234
WEB	www.radi.se

KEY FEATURES

- Improved maneuverability, pushability
- New tip design
- Measurement of FFR, CFR and temperature
- User-friendly, intuitive set up

Radi Medical Systems AB (Uppsala, Sweden) has announced the launch of their PressureWire 5 Sensor Guidewire and RadiAnalyzer Xpress interface for physiological assessment in the US. Radi comments that RadiAnalyzer Xpress combines all of the features of the RadiAnalyzer into a thin, lightweight package with a newly designed, intuitive user interface for fast and simple setup and use.

The new PressureWire 5 Sensor Guidewire provides improved maneuverability, pushability, and a new tip design with enhanced tip shape retention. The company states that the PressureWire 5 Sensor is the only device that provides measurement of fractional flow reserve (FFR), coronary flow reserve (CFR), and intravascular temperature using a single .014-inch coronary guidewire.



RadiAnalyzerXpress is pending 510(k) clearance in the US.

Peripheral Cutting Balloon

COMPANY	Boston Scientific Corporation
PHONE	(508) 650-8000
WEB	www.bostonscientific.com

KEY FEATURES

- Effective means of treating end-stage renal disease
- May help to prevent elastic recoil
- May help to reduce pain

Boston Scientific Corporation (Natick, MA) has announced the recent 510(k) clearance and immediate US launch of its Peripheral Cutting Balloon microsurgical dilatation device. The Peripheral Cutting Balloon device features tiny, longitudinally mounted atherotomes on the surface of an angioplasty balloon and will be used to treat patients who are currently undergoing hemodialysis for end-stage renal disease. As the balloon is expanded, the atherotomes score the lesion with precise incisions, allowing the balloon to dilate the vessel with less pressure.

"This device will undoubtedly have an important role in interventional medicine, particularly for the treatment of recalcitrant stenoses, which are unyielding to conventional angioplasty," said Thomas Vesely, MD, of the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. "Because the device scores the lesion with precise incisions, it may also prevent elastic recoil in these stubborn lesions. There also appears to be a pain benefit associated with the device, as well as a 6-month long-term benefit to patients with thrombosed dialysis grafts."

FilterWire EZ Embolic Protection System

COMPANY	Boston Scientific Corporation
PHONE	(508) 650-8000
WEB	www.bostonscientific.com

KEY FEATURES

- Suspended loop design
- Allows complete vessel wall apposition in straight and curved vessels
- 6-F guide-catheter–compatible
- 3.2-F crossing profile

After receiving FDA 510(k) clearance, Boston Scientific Corporation (Natick, MA) recently launched its FilterWire EZ Embolic Protection System in the US for use in treating saphenous vein graft (SVG) disease. The FilterWire EX System, Boston Scientific's first-generation embolic protection product, was the first filter-based system cleared for SVG treatment in the US and was launched in June 2003; the FilterWire EZ system is designed to enhance the effectiveness and ease of use of the product. It features a new "suspended loop" design that supports the filter, allowing for complete vessel wall apposition and for placement in both straight and curved vessels. The system is also 6-F guide catheter compatible and has enhanced deliverability with a 3.2-F crossing profile.

"The suspended loop design and the improved deliverability of the FilterWire EZ System have proved to be clinically important improvements," said David Cox, MD, US Principal Investigator for the BLAZE clinical registry. "In the BLAZE registry, the FilterWire EZ System showed improved rates of procedural success and reduced the risk of Major Adverse Cardiac Events (MACE) compared to previously studied embolic protection systems."

LightSpeed VCT

COMPANY	GE Healthcare
PHONE	(262) 544-3011
WEB	www.gehealthcare.com

KEY FEATURES

- Provides high-quality images of the heart and coronaries in only five heartbeats
- May assist in identifying evidence of heart attack, pulmonary embolism, or aortic dissection
- Valuable in diagnosing stroke and damage extent

GE Healthcare (Milwaukee, WI) recently introduced its latest CT scanner, the LightSpeed VCT. The company comments that the system is able to noninvasively capture any organ in 1 second, scan the whole body in less than 10 seconds, and capture images of the heart and coronaries in fewer than five heartbeats. In a single rotation, the system creates 64 images, totaling 40 mm of anatomical coverage.

Patients exhibiting acute chest pain in the emergency room may be able to be diagnostically scanned quickly and noninvasively, using the LightSpeed VCT, for evidence of heart attack, pulmonary embolism, or aortic dissection all in a single scan. LightSpeed VCT offers the speed and resolution required for rapid perfusion studies, enabling physicians to make a quick diagnosis of stroke and extent of damage, and may help make this complex procedure easier and more routine. ■