

ZEON Medical Develops and Releases of a New Series of Guide Wires for PTCA

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ZEON Medical Inc. (2-4-1, Shiba Koen, Minato-ku, Tokyo; President: Toshikazu Onuki), a wholly owned subsidiary of ZEON Corporation (President and CEO: Naozumi Furukawa), has developed a new series with three types of guide wires for Percutaneous Transluminal Coronary Angioplasty (PTCA; product name: PRONEUR[®] PTCA Guide Wire RT, ST and XT) and will put them on the market starting July 2005. The products are being manufactured at ZEON Medical Inc.'s Takaoka Plant, Toyama Prefecture.

Guide wires for PTCA perform an important task of leading balloon catheters and stents to the lesioned area of a blood vessel, and are essential for such treatments. These products were developed for Chronic Total Occlusion (CTO), a condition in which arteries are chronically clogged and blood circulation to the myocardium muscle is poor. Treatment cannot be performed for CTO lesions unless a guide wire penetrates the lesion, and therefore guide wires play a vital role.

PRONEUR[®] PTCA Guide Wire provides improved lesion penetrability due to its hydrophilic coating and offers the same performance as a polymer type, which could not be achieved by conventional coil wires. The new guide wires are smooth and easy to operate, and three types (RT, ST, and XT) were developed to deal with the range of stiffness found in CTO lesions.

ZEON Medical has jointly developed two types of general-use PTCA guide wires, PRONEUR[®] SOFT FX and PRONEUR[®] SOFT HT, with FMD Inc. (Inagi City, Tokyo; President: Takeshi Terashi) and introduced the products to the market in 2004. The new series of guide wires were also developed with FMD Inc. to serve a domestic market estimated to be ¥5 billion. In order to strengthen future products lines in the PTCA field, ZEON Medical Inc. will promote these products as one of its key product lines, targeting a 20% share of the market by 2007.

FMD Inc. was established in 2003. The company's engineers have extensive experience in this field and are taking the lead in R&D for cutting-edge medical devices.

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