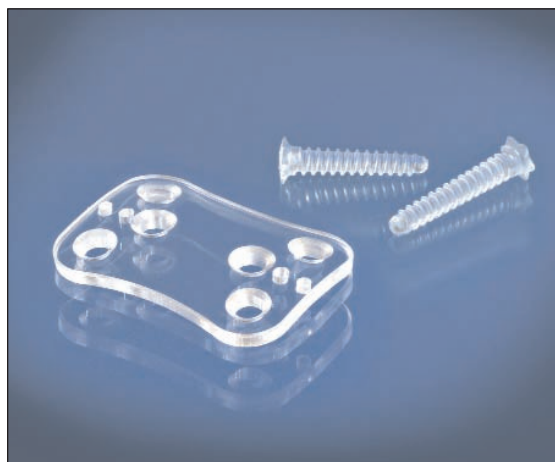


MEDTRONIC INTRODUCES THE MYSTIQUE™ PLATING SYSTEM

A Resorbable Implant for Spinal Surgery

Medtronic Sofamor Danek continues to maintain its position as the industry leader in spinal technology with its market introduction of the **MYSTIQUE™** Resorbable Graft Containment Plating System for cervical spine fusions. This new plating system uses a high-tech biologic material that is reabsorbed by the body over time, offering spinal surgeons a feature not found in traditional metal implants.

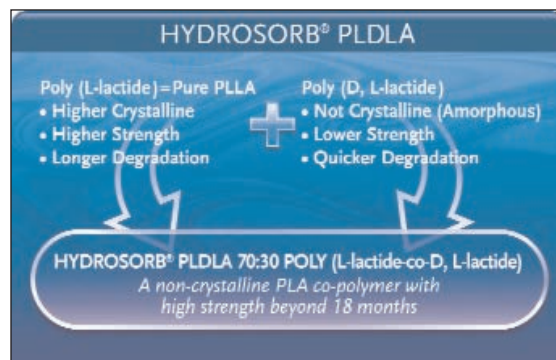


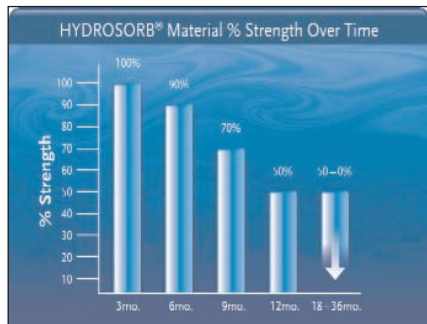
The MYSTIQUE Plate is the first implant of its kind for spinal surgery and is used for stabilizing the weak bony tissue around the fusion site, preventing bone graft dislodgement and facilitating the healing of the host spine. The new plate is flexible and made of material that dissolves in the body within 18 to 36 months after implantation. Christopher Ames, MD, of the University California San Francisco, describes this new plate as “the most dynamic and load-sharing plate available on the market today. The material properties of the implant not

only allow for the plate to flex as vertebral subsidence occurs but allows for an even greater transfer of load to the bone graft as the plate gradually resorbs over time.”

Bioabsorbable implants have been used successfully in cranio-maxillofacial, neurological, general surgical, and orthopedic procedures. The MYSTIQUE Plate is made of HYDROSORB® PLDLA co-polymer. This co-polymer consists of 70% Poly (L-lactide) and 30% Poly (D,L-lactide). Over time, as water comes in contact with the material, PLDLA resorbs through a process called bulk hydrolysis. The end-products are carbon dioxide and water. More than 10 years of clinical experience and research have shown that implants manufactured from PLDLA materials provide clinicians with a higher level of surgical versatility.

In addition to a modulus of elasticity that is closer to that of bone and its gradual resorptive properties, the MYSTIQUE Plate also allows optimal postoperative radiographic evaluation. The plate's transparent





nature lets doctors visualize the spine during surgery and can improve the reading of postoperative X-rays due to its radiolucency and the absence of artifact associated with similar metallic devices. The plate also can be contoured to match the patient's unique anatomy prior to implantation.

Nearly 200,000 cervical spinal fusions are performed each year to treat degenerative disc disease. Degenerative disc disease, which affects approximately half of the population age 40 and older, can cause a variety of symptoms, including back or neck pain, nerve root pathology, and spinal cord compression. "The MYSTIQUE Plate could bring a new approach to spine surgery," said Peter Wehrly, Vice President and President of Spinal and Navigation for Medtronic. "This device works like resorb-

able sutures. Once the bones fuse, the plate dissolves, leaving the patients without a permanent implant in their neck."


"The goal with the development of MYSTIQUE Plate is to achieve the same level of fixation and success that you would see with a metal plate used in the same application, but this time, the plate goes away," said Mark Adams, MD, of the Covenant Medical Center (Saginaw, MI).

The MYSTIQUE Resorbable Graft Containment Plate received U.S. Food and Drug Administration clearance in July 2004, for non-load-bearing indications that call for additional rigid fixation.

About Medtronic Sofamor Danek

Medtronic Sofamor Danek, Medtronic's Spinal business, is the global leader in today's spine market and is committed to advancing the treatment of spinal disorders. Headquartered in Memphis, TN, Medtronic's Spinal business has collaborated with world-renowned surgeons and researchers to develop products



and technologies that offer a range of solutions for neurological and spinal conditions. 

For more information concerning the company and its spinal treatments, call 1-800-876-3133 or visit the company Web site at www.medtronicsofamordanek.com, and its consumer sites, www.back.com, www.iscoliosis.com, www.necksurgery.com, and www.maturespine.com.