Slit Lamp Accessory Examines Corneal Curvature Irregularities

The Placido Disc attachment to the Zeiss Slit Lamp 30 SL/M permits the specialist in corneal surgery to assess irregularities in corneal curvature qualitatively. Of modular design, the accessory attaches to the Slit Lamp 30 SL/M at the receiver dovetail, in place of the normal objective. A toggle switch on the accessory enables the operator to select between Placido Disc illumination or slit illumination, with the accessory in place.

With a moveable fixation point used to align the patient's eye to the proper examination position, the Placido Disc has four concentrically arranged red LED rings (diameters 55 mm, 100 mm, 170 mm and 215 mm), seen as point reflections on the cornea. An abnormal corneal curvature will present skewed ring configurations.

For further information contact Carl Zeiss, Inc., One Zeiss Drive, Thornwood, New York 10594 (914) 747-1800.

84% of Practices at AAO Suitable for Ophthalmic Outpatient Surgicenters

The practices of 84% of ophthalmic surgeons reviewed at the Intermedics Intracocular booth at the AAO meeting were found suitable for outpatient surgicenters; it was announced by Sandra Dirks, Director of Corporate Affairs.

Dirks reported that 277 ophthalmic surgeons completed outpatient surgery center feasibility questionnaires for computerized pro formas of successful surgicenters. Of the 277 completed entries, 233 practices were found to be suitable for outpatient surgicenters.

In addition to the practice analyses, the surgeons also received computer-generated floor plans for proposed surgical facilities.

As part of the Intermedics feasibility study at the AAO, the questionnaires of two leading ophthalmic surgeons who already have outpatient surgicenters were entered into the computer. The computer results were almost identical to the current practices of the two surgeons, Dirks said.

The feasibility studies for surgicenters were provided without charge at the Intermedics booth by Surgicenters Development Corporation, a leading consulting firm.

Dirks added that Intermedics also has received 50 physicians' feasibility questionnaires in the mail since the Academy meeting. In this group, the computer study found that 80 percent of the practices would support outpatient surgical centers.

Any ophthalmic surgeon interested in a free surgicenter feasibility review of their practices may obtain questionnaires by writing to: Director of Corporate Affairs, Intermedics Intracocular, Inc, 2650 East Foothill Boulevard, Pasadena, California 91107.

Micra Titanium Corp Becomes Meticon, Inc

Meticon, Inc (Medical Titanium Corporation) will be the new corporate name for Micra Titanium Corporation.

The company sells a line of titanium microsurgical instruments and diamond knives for ophthalmology, including the widely accepted adjustable, guarded diamond knife for the radial keratotomy procedure.

According to Keith P. Yeisley, Meticon, Inc's president and chief executive officer, this name change reflects the company's planned growth into other areas of ophthalmology as well as other surgical disciplines.

Mr. Yeisley also specifically noted that the company will continue to expand its existing product line, and has reconfirmed their continuing direct affiliation with Duckworth & Kent of England, the manufacturer of their titanium instrument line.

Microtome Knife Economy

The cost of a microtome knife is more than its price because, between purchase and eventual disposal, it will be resharpened hundreds of times and require reconditioning periodically.

Both original and processing costs can be reduced and controlled by purchase of new heavy-duty H/I Microtome Knives; these to be rapidly resharpened, in-house, on H/I-76 Microtome Knife Sharpener. Reconditioning is accomplished on the same machine.

H/I Microtome Knives are made in West Germany of special steel which is notable for its edge retention and sharpen-ability. H/I-76 Microtome Knife Sharpener, manufactured in the U.S.A., accepts steel microtome knives 12 - 25 cm lengths in all profiles.

For further information contact Hacker Instruments Inc., P.O. Box 657, Fairfield, New Jersey 07007 (201) 226-8450.