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by FEG Textiltechnik mbH

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Report No. 1
Hernia Expert Meeting

Successful "DynaMesh® Hernia Expert Meeting"
24 -25 November, 2017, in Ghent, Belgium

DynaMesh® by FEG Textiltechnik Forschungs- und Entwicklungsgesellschaft mbH cooperated with Dr. Filip Muysoms and his team to host the "1st DynaMesh® Hernia Expert Meeting" held in Maria Middelares Hospital (Ghent, Belgium), on the 24th and 25th of November 2017. Based on the successfully established "DynaMesh® Hernia Master Class" that took place in cooperation with Prof. Dr. Berger in Baden-Baden during previous years, this year's event was organised with a modified concept in a new location.

The DynaMesh® team chose Maria Middelares Hospital in Ghent as the site to host its "2017 Hernia Expert Meeting". The hospital is a modern architectural complex with ideal infrastructure, highly skilled professionals and medical equipment at the highest technical level.

Maria Middelares Hospital in Ghent

The event focused on technical innovations in mesh development and minimal invasive surgery in the field of abdominal wall repair.

The "Hernia Expert Meeting" was addressed to a high-class faculty and experienced surgeons in the field of hernia surgery. In total 120 participants from all over the world joined the meeting.

After a welcome dinner on the 23rd of November in the Marriott Hotel Ghent, the scientific part of the event started in the morning of the 24th of November in Maria Middelares Hospital. Following a warm welcome by Dr. Filip Muysoms, the Head of Abdominal Surgery Department at Hernia Centrum Gent, Iris Kyle-Leinhase (former staff of Maria Middelares Hospital Ghent) and Prof. Dr. Marc Miserez (UZ Leuven, Belgium) guided the audience through the programme.

Dr. Filip Muysoms

Dr. Muysoms started with an impressive live surgery demonstrating a robotic assisted TAPP (transabdominal preperitoneal approach) with the use of a DynaMesh® ENDOLAP 3D. The subsequent live surgery showed a TEP (total extraperitoneal approach) using a DynaMesh® ENDOLAP 3D mesh implant. A robotic assisted retro-muscular umbilical

hernia repair followed thereafter using DynaMesh®-CICAT. An additional patient with umbilical hernia was treated with the laparoscopic IPOM technique (intraperitoneal onlay mesh) using a DynaMesh® IPOM mesh implant. The participants of the "Hernia Expert Meeting" had the possibility to follow all live surgeries on several huge screens placed in the hospital's event room. Additionally, audiences had the chance to pose questions to the surgeons regarding specific operation steps.

During the live-broadcast of the surgeries, a scientific programme was also offered.
Prof. Dr. Uwe Klinge (Uniklinik Aachen, Germany), who has been teaching and researching for over 20 years in the field of mesh implants, is considered as an outstanding key opinion leader. In his lecture "Rationale for PVDF meshes", he explained his rational for using mesh implants made of PVDF (Polyvinylidene fluoride): reduced foreign body reaction, high aging resistance and superior mechanical properties.

Prof. Dr. Bernd Klosterhalfen (Krankenhaus Düren, Germany) is head of the only pathology laboratory in Germany that is certified and accredited for testing and approval of biomaterials, implants and medical devices. In his lecture "What we learn from explanted meshes", he presented interesting findings from an analysis of more than 1,000 explants: meshes with small pores or no pores are causing strong scar formation and higher shrinkage.

Dr. Roel Beckers (Maria Middelares Hospital Ghent, Belgium) ranks amongst the most experienced radiologists in the use of DynaMesh® MRI visible products. He gained extensive knowledge on this subject in numerous studies and shared his expertise with the attendees through his presentation "MRI visible meshes – a radiologist's perspective". As mentioned by Dr. Beckers, MRI visibility provides the opportunity to better evaluate mesh implants in many aspects: mesh position, mesh migration and mesh shrinkage. As an additional diagnostic tool, this technology can contribute to reducing the number of subsequent operations.

Live-broadcast of a surgery

The device-specific settings whereby Dr. Beckers could generate his excellent MRI images are published on the Philips Group website:

http://clinical.netforum.healthcare.philips.com/global/Operate/ExamCards/MRI/Ingenia-15T-Anterior-abdominal-wall-with-mesh-Maria-Middelares-Gent

To conclude the scientific programme, Iris Kyle-Leinhase (former staff member of Maria Middelares Hospital Ghent) held the presentation "The online hernia research platform EuraHS (European Registry of Abdominal Wall Hernias)", which is available online (https://eurahs2.informatik.uni-wuerzburg.de/EuraHS-Login/login.jsp). She explained the functionalities of the platform and demonstrated all relevant steps from login to data entry. In the course of the lectures, attendees took the opportunity to engage in lively discussions and to pose their questions on specific topics.

In the evening, the participants gathered for a dinner in the historic district of Ghent and let the meeting day end with relaxed conversations in a cosy atmosphere.

The second part of the "Hernia Expert Meeting" continued in the morning of the 25th of November in Maria Middelares Hospital with scientific lectures and video sections showing specific

Scientific programme and live-broadcast of a surgery

clinical scenarios within the scope of hernia surgery. Dr. Barbara Defoort (Maria Middelares Hospital Ghent, Belgium), who performed two live surgeries the previous day, started the course of lectures with the topic "Laparoscopic groin hernia repair" presenting particularities and differences of the TAPP and TEP technique. With the lecture "Laparoscopic ventral hernia repair", Dr. Filip Muysoms demonstrated his remarkable experience using IPOM in the field of abdominal wall repair. The following speakers provided a highly interesting insight into their longstanding expertise in the scope of hernia surgery:
Dr. Frederik Berrevoet (Ghent University, Belgium): "Open incisional hernia repair"; Dr. Miguel Garcia Ureña (Hospital Universitario Henares, Spain): "Prophylactic mesh after laparatomy";
Prof. Dr. Dieter Berger (Germany): "Laparoscopic parastomal hernia repair"; Dr. Gernot Köhler (Krankenhaus der Barmherzigen Schwestern Linz, Austria): "Prevention of parastomal hernias" as well as Dr. Nele Van De Winkel (UZ Leuven, Belgium) who concluded the scientific lectures with the topic "Laparoscopic ventral hernia repair in combination with glue fixation". In her exciting talk, Dr. Van de Winkel shared her clinical experience using different glues to fix mesh implants within the scope of hernia repair.

We are very pleased that the "DynaMesh® Hernia Expert Meeting" in Ghent received incredibly positive responses. The international audience rated the meeting as an excellent and valuable advanced training course with the highest quality. The attendees also appreciated the excellent opportunity to exchange professional experience with other experts and to develop their networks. Participants are already looking forward to the next "DynaMesh® Hernia Expert Meeting" that will presumably take place in autumn 2018. We will announce the exact date and programme of the meeting in good time.

The DynaMesh® team would like to extend our thanks to all participants, speakers and colleagues as well as to Dr. Filip Muysoms and his team for their active involvement and support. A special thanks goes to Prof. Dr. Marc Miserez and Iris Kyle-Leinhase for the proficient moderation. Finally, many thanks to all who have significantly contributed to the success of this event!

Ghent at night

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