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by Mark Paquin, Contributing Editor

Bovine Pericardium Covered Stents

Design & Performance Canada (DPCAN) located in Richmond, British Columbia, Canada has developed bovine-pericardium covered stents for treatment of coronary artery aneurysms, primarily in saphenous vein grafts (SVGs). The Over and Under Bovine Pericardium Covered Stent is a 316 L laser cut stainless steel stent covered with a processed bovine pericardium cylinder that is then anchored to the stent with a prolene suture. "The Over and Under covered stent is intended mainly to address the treatment of SVGs due to the friable nature of the obstructive plaque that has developed in them." DPCAN foresees many other applications for its bovine pericardium covered stent, such as: For use in native coronary arteries, vessels where thrombus is present, etc. The company is also working to develop peripheral, bifurcation, and drug-delivery versions of its covered stent. For more information, please visit www.dpcan.com

Size does matter

According to Angiometrx's company motto, size does matter when it comes to measuring vessel diameter. Angiometrx is a Vancouver, Canada-based Company that recently received FDA clearance for a novel technology called the Metricath System that measures reference vessel diameter. This new device takes the guesswork out of sizing up coronaries, allowing interventional cardiologists to choose the right sized stent and confirm proper deployment. Metricath uses a proprietary balloon catheter and IV pole



Angiometrx Metricath System

mounted control console to measure arterial lumen diameter and cross-sectional area. Not only is the Metricath accurate to within 0.1 mm, but it is also fast (measurement time takes less than 30 seconds), simple (requires minimal operator training), and cost-effective (takes the guess work out of measuring vessel diameter and it may replace the use of other arterial measurement techniques, such as IVUS). The company is currently exploring expanding Metricath's technology to include a pre-dilatation balloon, which would allow interventional cardiologists to measure and pre-dilate vessels in one step. The Metricath System should be available in Europe in 2004 and will soon be available in the U.S. through a network of distributors. For more information, please visit www.angiometrx.com