

infrastructure will result in an extremely rapid adoption of our technology to treat the nearly 200,000 diseased arteries and heart grafts that could be treated each year," said Peter Rule, president, CEO and chairman of PercuSurge.

The PercuSurge GuardWire Plus Temporary Occlusion and Aspiration system is designed to allow cardiologists and interventional specialists to capture embolic debris that might otherwise block downstream vessels and branches during interventional procedures and damage the heart. It consists of a balloon-tipped guidewire, which is inflated briefly to occlude blood flow and aspirate debris, then dislodged from the wall of the vessel during placement of a stent upstream. Captured material is then withdrawn using the PercuSurge Export aspiration catheter before the balloon of the GuardWire Plus is deflated and blood flow resumes.

The device has been used in over 5,000 procedures since its release in Europe during 1999 and was the first temporary occlusion device to be commercialized there. The product's first targeted indication is for the treatment of degenerated saphenous vein bypass graft signs of disease following heart bypass surgery.

The GuardWire Plus is an investigational device in the United States, and clinical trials are already underway.

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