

New surgical rod to be available in the U.S. this year

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Information & Resource Director

Children and adults with OI and their medical teams now have an additional option when rodding surgery is required.

In early February, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved a new intramedullary rod specifically for the surgical treatment of bone deformities and fractures in patients with osteogenesis imperfecta. It is approved for children 18 months or older and can be used in the femur, tibia or humerus.

The Fassier-Duval Telescopic Intramedullary System was developed by Dr. Francois Fassier, Head of Pediatric Orthopaedic Surgery at McGill University and Chief of Staff at the Montreal Shriners Hospital for Children, Canada, and his colleague Dr. Pierre Duval, orthopedic surgeon

at the Brome-Misissquoi-Perkins Hospital, Canada.

In a statement provided by Pega Medical, Dr. Fassier stated, "This nail will not cure the disease, but it may help the patients to live a bit better."


Compared to other surgical rods—or nails—currently in use, the Fassier-Duval System is designed to reduce some of the more common complications of rodding surgery. The rod features a unique screw-type anchor system.

During clinical trials it was reported that time in surgery was shorter, blood loss was less, complications were fewer and rehabilitation was quicker. Only 3 weeks of post-operative immobilization (rather than the customary 6 weeks) was required for most patients. This allowed the patient to receive rehabilitation on an accelerated schedule and return to normal activities

sooner, often with less pain.

According to reports from the developer, the Fassier-Duval rod's design causes less trauma to joints, bone and growth plates. It significantly reduces the risk of rod migration, making it more reliable over time, and allows for longer telescopic range, extending the time between surgeries in a growing child.

During late spring and summer, 2003, Pega Medical Inc., a Canadian bioengineering company, will begin manufacturing the device and make it available for sale to hospitals in the United States. Surgeons can obtain information about the rod and about training opportunities through their web site, www.pegamedical.com.

As surgeons are trained in the use of the Fassier-Duval System, it will become available to patients across the United States during the next year. 

SCPICA continues loyal support to OI

Charitable organization has been raising funds, awareness for more than 17 years

The song says "it never rains in California," but it poured on the day of the 28th annual Southern California Petroleum Industry Charity Association (SCPICA) Golf and Tennis Tournament. Although a few zealous golf fans were willing to play in the rain, Chairman John Aguilar and his hardworking committee were forced to make plans for their 2002 golf tournament not once, but twice! Two volunteer marathons to stuff "goodie bags" for the players, two trips to transport auction items, two additional mailings



Nicole Hoffman (l), Christina Nelson (c) and Rob Parke (r) were on hand to volunteer at the 17th SCPICA golf tournament to benefit the OI Foundation.

for confirmation and postponement announcements, and two attendance rosters to organize. Fortunately, the committee was able to put the event together twice in three short months.

The rescheduled tournament was

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