Abbott Home Daily

April 3, 2012

Abbott Medical Optics Innovates a New Use for its Laser Technology

STORY HIGHLIGHTS

• AMO successfully treats first cataract patient with its *Femtosecond* laser technology
• *Femtosecond* laser creates precise capsulotomies (openings) for cataract treatment
• Strategic Impact: Finding new, innovative uses for our existing technologies allows for more patients to potentially benefit from our medical optics products

Abbott Medical Optics (AMO) has applied a new and innovative use for its *Femtosecond* laser technology, currently used in LASIK and corneal transplant procedures, to certain aspects of the cataract procedure, successfully treating the first patient in a clinical trial in Honduras.

In December 2011, AMO successfully conducted a "first-in-man" clinical trial using the *Femtosecond* laser to create a precise and centered anterior capsulotomy, which is an opening in the front of the lens capsule of the eye that allows for cataract extraction. The objective of the ongoing study is to demonstrate that AMO's *Femtosecond* laser can successfully create precise and well-centered capsulotomies. Traditionally, a capsulotomy is created manually using a cystotome (bent needle) or forceps during a cataract procedure.

Performing a precise and centered capsulotomy is of growing interest in the field of cataract surgery, as it is predicted to help surgeons better achieve targeted intraocular lens (IOL) implantations, allowing the market for these lens products to expand. An IOL is an implanted lens in the eye, usually replacing the existing crystalline lens because it has been clouded over by a cataract.

"This is a major advancement and expansion of our *Femtosecond* technology," said Nick Tarantino, Director of Clinical Research and Development, AMO. "Abbott has been a pioneer in the ophthalmic use of *Femtosecond* lasers, and this effort will help us maintain a leadership position in a very dynamic and competitive market."

The patient is the first person in the world to have the AMO procedure performed. He and 18 other subjects were enrolled and treated over a three-day period in San Pedro Sula, the second-largest city in Honduras, located in the northeast part of the country.

Strategic Impact: *Finding new, innovative uses for our existing technologies allows for more patients to potentially benefit from our medical optics products*.

On April 2, Abbott's stock price closed at $61.24.

Follow Abbott on Twitter Follow