



9<sup>th</sup> December 2008

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **UK INITIATIVE: ST MARGARET'S SOMERSET HOSPICE AND NHS TAUNTON & SOMERSET FORM ALLIANCE TO IMPLEMENT PRE-OPERATIVE LYMPHOEDEMA CARE USING IMPEDIMED'S L-DEX™ DEVICES**

In a cooperative initiative, surgeons and breast cancer nurses from Taunton & Somerset NHS Foundation Trust and lymphoedema nurse specialists from St Margaret's Somerset Hospice have combined forces to tackle lymphoedema head on. Acting on the new pre-emptive care model, recently published in the journal 'Cancer'<sup>1</sup>, these two organisations have demonstrated leadership in implementing preventative medicine.

"St Margaret's Somerset Hospice and the T&S NHS trust are committed to delivering the best possible care to our breast cancer patients. Lymphoedema is an issue that now, through state of the art assessment options, can be potentially managed. The benefits to patients are significant as there are real possibilities of preventing irreversible changes from developing. This has been the main driver in why we have adopted both the new partnership model and the enabling technology of L-Dex devices", said Helen Booth, Deputy Director of Clinical Services, St Margaret's.

The two healthcare organisations have purchased L-Dex devices to aid in the early clinical assessment of lymphoedema in breast cancer survivors. Pre-surgical baseline L-Dex measurements, combined with post-surgical follow-ups, are to be used to help assess changes in the arm giving an early indication of swelling: a symptom of lymphoedema Treatment then can be delivered to the patient at this stage using L-Dex as an aid to clinically assessing the effectiveness of the treatment. Both organisations are involved in efforts to establish a set of guidelines and protocols for this groundbreaking early assessment and intervention initiative.

"Breast cancer patients benefit through the pre-operative assessment and early education around the risks of lymphoedema. Through early detection and simple interventions, it has now been demonstrated that lymphoedema can be effectively treated. The NHS is one of the largest socialised systems in the world and alongside charity, St Margaret's Somerset Hospice, has yet again taken a leading edge role in implementing a new model of care in prevention. For ImpediMed this will have a significant roll on impact in driving change globally", commented Greg Brown, CEO of ImpediMed.

**ENDS**

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1. Preoperative Assessment Enables the Early Diagnosis and Successful Treatment of Lymphedema, *Cancer* Vol 112/ Issue 12, June 15, 2008 pp. 2809-2819.

L-Dex™ is a trademark of ImpediMed Limited

**About ImpediMed**

ImpediMed Ltd. is the world leader in the development and distribution of medical devices employing Bioimpedance Spectroscopy (BIS) technologies for use in the non-invasive clinical assessment and monitoring of fluid status. ImpediMed's primary product range consists of a number of medical devices that aid surgeons, oncologists, therapists and radiation oncologists in the clinical assessment of patients for the potential onset of secondary lymphoedema. Pre-operative clinical assessment in breast cancer survivors, before the onset of symptoms, may prevent the condition from becoming a lifelong management issue and thus improve the quality of life of the cancer survivor. ImpediMed had the first medical device with an FDA clearance in the United States to aid health care professionals, clinically assess secondary lymphoedema of the arm in female breast cancer patients. For more information, visit. [www.impedimed.com](http://www.impedimed.com).

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