

NEWS RELEASE

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**AGA Medical Corporation Gains FDA Clearance
for AMPLATZER® Vascular Plug**

MINNEAPOLIS, MN, May 3, 2004 — AGA Medical Corporation has received clearance from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for its AMPLATZER® Vascular Plug, an implantable device that provides physicians with a minimally invasive alternative to current treatment options for correcting an array of common vascular disorders.

The AMPLATZER Vascular Plug helps physicians occlude, or close, specifically targeted veins and arteries. Vascular occlusion is often indicated to help a patient avoid a burst aneurysm, to shut off blood flow to a growing tumor, or to correct situations where the venous and arterial sides of the circulatory system connect abnormally.

The AMPLATZER Vascular Plug is cleared by the FDA for cases where the site to be treated is within the peripheral vasculature (the veins and arteries outside the heart and the brain). Until now, the two most common treatments for peripheral vascular disorders have been surgery or implantable coils, which are designed to induce blood clotting and thus occlude the vessel.

The AMPLATZER Vascular Plug is introduced to the target vessel via a catheter threaded through a vein or artery, accessed via a small incision in the patient's groin. Unlike some coil technologies, which are embolized (released into the blood vessel) in a less-controlled fashion, the AMPLATZER Vascular Plug can be placed, repositioned if necessary, and finally released in a precise and controlled manner.

The AMPLATZER Vascular Plug is one in a growing family of minimally invasive, implantable occlusion devices manufactured by AGA Medical, and the first of the company's devices intended for implantation within the radiology lab, by interventional radiologists.

The self-expandable, cylindrical device is made of Nitinol-wire mesh and is available in diameters ranging from 4 mm to 16 mm. Nitinol's super-elastic properties allow the device to compress inside a catheter, then spring back to full size once situated within the blood vessel. The device's Nitinol-wire frame provides strong radial traction that holds it securely within a vessel wall. The device is also non-magnetic, and therefore compatible with magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) technology.

The population of patients who could be candidates for the AMPLATZER Vascular Plug is expected to number in the tens of thousands annually. In 2002 an estimated 26,000 vascular occlusion procedures using coils were performed in the United States.

AGA Medical Corporation, a Minneapolis-based company, is the world's leading manufacturer of transcatheter occlusion devices that empower minimally invasive treatment of heart and vascular defects. For more information, visit www.amplatzer.com.

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