

Taiwan relies on ventricular assist devices made in Berlin

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Berlin, 1st of September 2010. The demand for donor hearts in Taiwan is rising continuously, however the availability of such donor organs is quite insufficient. Helping these severely ill patients, medical centers like the National Taiwan University Hospital, the Taiwan Veterans General Hospital Taipeh and the Chang Gung Memorial Hospital increasingly focus on so called ventricular assist devices (VAD) from the German company Berlin Heart. The implantable INCOR[®] as well as the extra-corporeal EXCOR[®] system – which can be used from newborns to adults – support the vital pump function of the patient’s heart until a donor heart becomes available.

As VAD treatment of patients suffering from heart failure becomes more and more important, Prof. Wang – Professor of Division of Cardiovascular Surgery of the National Taiwan University Hospital – held a VAD symposium last month. 15 centers from all over Taiwan came to participate in this symposium in order to share their experience. Moreover a Berlin Heart team took part in the meeting, presented the INCOR[®] and EXCOR[®] device and held a product-training exercise for all participants.

Hospitals which implant the Berlin Heart devices for the first time, benefit from the technical and clinical support Berlin Heart offers before, during and after the operation. Furthermore, training for clinical staff will be implemented on site.

“The demographic change and thus the increasing number of patients suffering from heart failure not only affect Germany, but also Taiwan. We are glad that our products will, in the future contribute to a best patient treatment in Taiwan“, so Dr. Stefan Thamasett, General Manager at Berlin Heart.

About Berlin Heart

Berlin Heart GmbH is the only company worldwide that develops, produces, and distributes implantable and external

ventricular assist devices for patients of every age and body size. The company is the market leader in Germany and Europe.

About the INCOR®

INCOR® is an implantable left ventricular assist device for adults. The impeller, the only moving part within the pump, is magnetically levitated, which makes the pump unique worldwide and ideally suited for long-term support. More than 500 patients have been supported with the system, some of them for several years. The longest support time so far is six years.

About EXCOR®

EXCOR® is a paracorporeal ventricular assist device for patients of all age groups, from newborns to adults. It is used for short-, mid- and long-term cardiac support and can support failing hearts for any duration from a couple of days to several months and years. Since the first implantation in 1988 EXCOR® has been implanted in more than 2.000 patients worldwide.

EXCOR® is currently under clinical investigation for paediatric use in USA. All other products are not FDA approved.

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[You can find this press release here](#)