

Covalon's Award-Winning Mediclear Preop Product Recognized As Innovative Solution To Help Hospitals Reduce Surgical Site Infections

MISSISSAUGA, Ontario--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Apr. 8, 2019-- Covalon Technologies Ltd. (the "Company" or "Covalon") (TSXV:COV; OTCQX:CVALF) is pleased to announce that its MediClear™ PreOp product has been recognized by both the medical device industry and by key clinicians as an important innovation in the fight to prevent surgical site infections.

Surgical site infections ("SSIs") are among the costliest of healthcare-associated infections and are the second most common in the US.^{1, 2, 3} SSIs can lead to prolonged patient suffering, extended hospitalizations, and, in some cases, patient death. SSIs cost the healthcare industry billions of dollars each year, much of which is no longer reimbursable through medical insurance providers in the United States.

MediClear PreOp, the only dual antimicrobial pre-surgical film barrier, was designed to help hospitals reduce infections by protecting surgical sites on patients before a surgical procedure. MediClear PreOp reduces the level of pathogens on the patient's skin while protecting the surgical site from exposure to bacteria found within the hospital environment.

"It has become clear that there is a gap in the protection of patients from exposure to bacteria before a surgical procedure, and that gap can be filled by MediClear PreOp," said Brian Pedlar, Chief Executive Officer of Covalon. "Clinicians in our surveys at recent industry events have identified the need for a solution that bridges the use of presurgical wipes at home and the presurgical prep of the patient done in the surgical suite. Patients are also becoming aware of the risks of exposure to hospital-acquired infectious pathogens and are demanding protection to reduce their risk of contracting an infection during surgical procedures. MediClear PreOp satisfies the needs of both clinicians and patients and can help save lives as a major preventative force against SSIs."

Covalon surveyed dozens of clinical Key Opinion Leaders at last month's American Association of Orthopedic Surgeons Annual Conference in Las Vegas, NE, with attendees including industry leaders in orthopedic surgery and key decision makers from healthcare institutions across the United States. The results of the surveys indicated that there was no consistent protocol or method of protecting patients from exposure to hospital-borne bacteria from the pre-surgical admitting process up to their entrance into the sterile operating room. Many of the Key Opinion Leaders surveyed recognized the value of using MediClear PreOp in conjunction with their current infection prevention protocols to better protect patients in the hospital prior to surgery.

Covalon will further validate the need for MediClear PreOp at the Association of periOperative Nurses Global Surgical Conference & Expo ("AORN") from April 6-10 at the Music City Centre in Nashville, TN. AORN will bring together 10,000 perioperative nurses and exhibitors for five days of learning.

Brian Pedlar continued, "Our discussions with orthopedic surgeons have identified the clear need for an innovative product like MediClear PreOp. We anticipate that our discussions with perioperative nurses will provide continued education and identification of the need for MediClear PreOp to further protect patients."

Since Covalon's launch of this innovative product, the medical technology industry has recognized MediClear PreOp as an innovative presurgical protocol with a number of awards. MediClear PreOp was the recipient of the 2018 New Product Innovation Award for Surgical Site Infection Prevention by Frost & Sullivan and was awarded the 2018 Silver Award by Medical Design Excellence Awards in the Over-the-Counter Category.

MediClear PreOp is based on Covalon's proprietary antimicrobial silicone adhesive technology and harnesses the synergistic effects of silver and chlorhexidine, killing 99.99% of microorganisms associated with SSIs on patients' skin within 30 minutes of application and suppressing regrowth until surgery. Clinical evidence of well-known antimicrobial agents, such as chlorhexidine, in washes and wipes has shown that they are effective at reducing the levels of bacteria on a patient's skin pre-operatively and subsequently decreasing the incidence of SSIs when utilized correctly.

Most SSIs are caused by the native flora of the patient's skin, mucous membranes, or hollow viscera.⁴ When the skin is incised, the underlying tissue is exposed to endogenous flora, increasing the risk of potential infection. It has been shown that preoperative skin preparation products containing chlorhexidine, like MediClear PreOp, help to decrease endogenous and exogenous pathogens, reduce the risk of SSIs and subsequent mortality.⁵ Furthermore, MediClear PreOp's soft silicone adhesive is gentle on the skin, while the breathable polyurethane backing provides a physical barrier to external contamination, such as bacteria, yeast, and viruses.

To learn more about Covalon, please contact:

Brian Pedlar, CEO, Covalon Technologies Ltd.

Email: bpedlar@covalon.com

Phone: 905.568.8400 x 233

Toll free: 1.877.711.6055

Web site: www.covalon.com

Twitter: @covalon

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About Covalon

Covalon Technologies Ltd. researches, develops, and commercializes new healthcare technologies that help save lives around the world. Covalon's patented technologies, products, and services address the advanced healthcare needs of medical device companies, healthcare providers, and individual consumers. Covalon's technologies are used to prevent, detect, and manage medical conditions in specialty areas such as infection control, vascular access, surgical procedures, advanced wound care, and medical device coatings. To learn more about Covalon, visit our website at www.covalon.com

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Source: Covalon Technologies Ltd.

Brian Pedlar, CEO, Covalon Technologies Ltd.

Email: bpedlar@covalon.com

Phone: 905.568.8400 x 233

Toll free: 1.877.711.6055

Web site: www.covalon.com

Twitter: @covalon

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