

Issue 11
August 2009

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Bridge to the Future

Two glass walls and just a few steps now connect the existing building with our brand new facility. Around 1900 m² of space incorporating production, administration and a public creche ensure that A.M.I. is well equipped for years of growth ahead!



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A.M.I.®
Agency for Medical Innovations

Attendees (from l. to r.): Mr. Darren Gold, Dr. Ajit Kukreja, Dr. Alessandro Testa, Dr. Evgeny Zagriadskiy, Prof. Andreas Salat, Dr. Mathias Scheyer, Dr. Piotr Walega

Events

The international RAR Study Group held their third meeting in Vienna on Wednesday, June 17. The meeting was attended by all but one of the contributing centres, and the discussions held during the afternoon proved to be both interesting and fruitful.

A.M.I. Sales & Marketing Director Marc Jablonowski presents an extract from a soon-to-be-completed RAR animated video



Lively discussion over the aperitive



A.M.I. RAR Symposium Vienna, Austria

In the same week, Vienna also became a hive of A.M.I. activity as we exhibited on a large scale at the Austrian Surgeons' Congress, and also hosted the A.M.I. RAR Symposium for invited guests from Austria and Germany.

After an aperitive and words of welcome by A.M.I. CEO Walter Egle, some 90 doctors listened attentively to four separate presentations given by experienced RAR users from Austria. Topics included the principle of the RAR method and its place amongst the various haemorrhoid treatments, and Professor Andreas Salat presented the provisional results of the RAR Study Group. On completion of the subsequent discussion, which also raised several interesting questions, the guests moved back out to the reception area to enjoy canapés and wine, along with the eighth floor's splendid view over the river Danube. We are indebted to those four surgeons who gave their time to help raise the profile of RAR amongst the German-speaking medical community.

International Pelviperineology Conference Queensland, Australia

The Australian Association of Vaginal and Incontinence Surgeons joined forces with the International Collaboration of the Pelvic Floor, the Urological Society of Australia and New Zealand and the International Pelvic Floor Dysfunction Society to host an international pelviperineology conference at the lovely seaside location of Noosa in Queensland. The programme included several lectures on the A.M.I. CR-Mesh and the A.M.I. TVA-TOA System, as well as the A.M.I. Soft Anal Band. Located directly by the entrance to the scientific sessions, the large Endotherapeutics booth displaying A.M.I.'s products was kept busy throughout the conference.



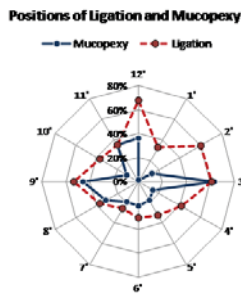
(l. to r.) Dr. Miroslav Krhovsky from the Czech Republic with Dr. Christian Fuenfgeld and wife Dorothea from Germany enjoying the gala dinner



(l. to r.) Caroline from A.M.I. Austria with Endotherapeutics representatives Kristy, Amish and Patrick

Did You Know...

Countries



...that Dr. Satzinger et al. "found no correlation between the position of the outer prolapse and the internal location of the arteries"?

Recto Anal Repair (RAR): a viable new treatment option for high-grade hemorrhoids. One year results of a prospective study
Satzinger et al.

Pelvipерineology 2009; 28: 37-42



Australia / Hong Kong



Recently launched in Australia, the adjustable TVA and TOA slings for female stress urinary incontinence were promoted during a whirlwind tour prior to the International Pelvipерineology Conference by the renowned Spanish urologist, Professor Jesus Romero. Professor Romero was the special guest at workshops held in Sydney and Brisbane, as well as an evening presentation and dinner in Melbourne.

On the way to Australia, Professor Romero also paid a flying visit to Hong Kong, where he assisted surgery carried out Dr. Peggy Chu, a leading user of the TOA and TVA in Hong Kong. We would like to thank the team from Endotherapeutics in Australia, as well as Lunwen Zhang from MDA in Hong Kong for organising these activities.

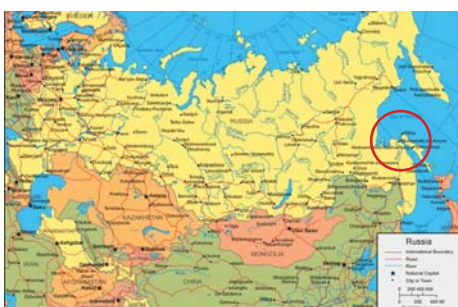


(l. to r.) Prof. Romero, Dr. Chu, Prof. Romero's wife, Rosa Delgado and Lunwen Zhang



Malaysia

Our partners from Tekno-Med in Malaysia made a great deal of noise about HAL-RAR during the first few months of the year. Live surgery as well as a "How I Do It" presentation at Coloproctology 2009, the 7th Malaysian Colorectal Conference held from March 6 - 7 in Kuala Lumpur, ensured the methods were given considerable exposure. Tekno-Med was also one of the main sponsors of a public forum organized by the Prince Court Medical Centre on various treatments for haemorrhoids, where Professor Yunus Gul highlighted the benefits of HAL to the audience.



Russia

With a HAL unit already in use at one of the southernmost points of the world in Chile, A.M.I. made another long journey at the beginning of the year to install the equipment in another far-away place. Also known as Oxa or Oha, Okha is the northernmost point of Sakhalin, Russia's largest island with an area of 78,000 km² and stretching almost 1,000 km in length. 10,417 km separate Okha from the Russian capital of Moscow!

Stay tuned for the next instalment as to how far RAR can go. Will the International Space Station be next??

Workshops 2009

Almost all the workshops for the remainder of 2009 are fully booked. We are very pleased with the excellent attendance rates, and are trying to organise some additional dates to keep up with demand. We will keep you informed when these are finalised.

At this stage we can confirm that limited spaces are still available for the following courses:

Bariatric surgery with Professor Alexander Klaus at the Medical University of Innsbruck on November 2 - 3.

HAL-RAR with Dr. Stefan Ebner in Bregenz on October 2.

HAL-RAR with Dr. Scheyer and Dr. Lancee in Bludenz on December 11.

Furthermore an additional Pelvic Floor Repair Workshop has been organised for Vienna:

December 2 - 3 with Dr. Tammaa in the Wilhelminenspital.

International Events 2009

IFSO 2009
14th World Congress of the International Federation for the Surgery of Obesity and Metabolic Disorders
August 26 - 29, 2009

ESCP
European Society of Coloproctology
September 23 - 26, 2009

Products

RAR®

Over the last 12 months we have seen several excellent papers published on both HAL and RAR, including works by Prof. Jean-Luc Faucheron from France, Dr. Evgeny Zagriadskiy from Russia and Dr. Ulrike Satzinger from Austria. Prof. Faucheron's study covers three year follow-up on 100 patients treated with HAL, 78% of whom had Grade 3 haemorrhoids. With a success rate of 88%, Prof. Faucheron concludes that "Hemorrhoidal artery ligation procedure is safe, easy to perform, and should be considered as an alternative for the treatment of symptomatic hemorrhoids, even with a recurrence rate of 12 percent, which can be treated by the same technique or another." Dr. Zagriadskiy published results of 85 patients who underwent RAR (67% Grade 3 and 33% Grade 4) with follow-up of 15 months, while Dr. Satzinger analysed results from 83 RAR patients (90% Grade 3 and 10% Grade 4) after 12 months. Both Dr. Zagriadskiy and Dr. Satzinger conclude that RAR is an effective form of treatment for higher grades of symptoms, and Dr. Satzinger notes in particular the effective treatment of haemorrhoidal symptoms using the combination of haemorrhoidal artery ligation and the mucopexy.

Doppler-Guided Hemorrhoidal Artery Ligation for the Treatment of Symptomatic Hemorrhoids: Early and Three-Year Follow-up Results in 100 Consecutive Patients
Faucheron et al

Diseases of the Colon & Rectum
Volume 51: 945 - 949 (2008)

TIC Device®



The new, reusable TIC Device is now available! Remove just one screw for easy disassembly, to allow thorough cleaning, lubrication and sterilization of the instrument. The reusable TIC Device is sold in boxes of two, so there is always one on hand in the OR.

TOA System

Professor Jesus Romero and his colleagues in Alicante, Spain, recently published more very good results achieved with the TOA Slings. Of 77 patients with a mean follow-up of 24.7 months, a total of 96.5% were either objectively stress continent or considerably improved at the last revision. According to the author, the "high objective success rate with quite strict criteria in a non-homogeneous sample is probably explained by the ability to adjust the tension applied during surgery in the postoperative period".

Transobturator adjustable tape (TOA) permits to correct postoperatively the tension applied in stress incontinence surgery
Jesus Romero et al

Int Urogynecol J
DOI 10.1007/s00192-009-0872-3