



NEWS RELEASE

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PATIENTS AND HEALTH SYSTEM TO BENEFIT FROM NEW ORTHOPAEDIC PRODUCT

A new medical device used to mend broken wrists has been developed and manufactured by an Australian medical technology company, Austofix Group Ltd.

The device can speed up patients' recovery and as a consequence has cost savings for the public health system.

Following its release to selected surgeons, the Austofix Volar Radius Plate (VRP) has shown great early success in repairing fractures of the distal radius, or wrist. Like similar technology for hips and long bones, the Austofix VRP is applied to the broken bone, to act like an internal brace, supporting the bone while it heals.

"Designed specifically for broken wrists, the VRP eliminates the need for large incisions which means better healing outcomes for the patient and reduced cost to the health system," Austofix Chief Executive Mark Szolga said.

"Operations conducted in trauma centres along the Eastern seaboard over recent weeks have demonstrated that VRP patients can typically use their hand and wrist within days of the fracture. This means that the wrist has a much quicker return to function."

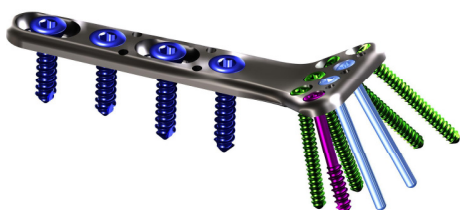
The VRP and its unique, innovative features that facilitate the surgical procedure, was designed by Australian surgeons and is the first locking plate for the wrist to be manufactured here in Australia. It is also the first in the line of a new range of products being developed by Austofix as part of its commitment to commercialisation that underpinned its successful listing on the ASX in February 2008.

"In designing the VRP, we were able to use our skills in commercialising new products from concept through to distribution, in order to deliver a product to budget and on time – and profitably. This is significant when the market demand for wrist plates is estimated to be in excess of \$15 million in Australia, and over \$200 million worldwide, growing at 10 per cent per annum, due in no small part to the rapidly growing rates of osteoporosis," Mr Szolga said.

"Importantly, our control over the product development process means that we were able to design a high tech and innovative product with a provisional patent for a feature that simplifies the surgical procedure even further. This patent is one that will be applied across the next generation of Austofix products."

Austofix produces a unique range of stainless steel and titanium implants to repair all the body's major bones and has supplied almost 100,000 medical devices to patients around the world since being launched 14 years ago by a leading Orthopaedic surgeon. Its products are used for the treatment of broken bones sustained by adults during sports or play and in road accidents, and increasingly as a result of osteoporosis. Latest Australian figures show that one in two women and one in three men aged over 60 will sustain a fracture due to osteoporosis.

Austofix supplies more than 60 major trauma centres and hospitals around Australia. It also exports to China, Malaysia, Argentina, Ecuador, Israel, Bolivia and Syria. Australian public hospitals can contact Austofix Group on 1300 TRAUMA to trial the VRP.



The Austofix VRP

For more information and photo opportunities, please contact Mark Szolga, Austofix CEO on 08 8351 0644 or 0404 053 428.