



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**STARION INSTRUMENTS' TISSUE LIGATING SHEARS IDEAL SOLUTION FOR
ENDOSCOPIC RADIAL ARTERY AND SAPHENOUS VEIN HARVESTING**

Researchers from University of Milan Report Successful Results

Sunnyvale, Calif. – August 19, 2008 – Starion Instruments, a leading surgical device company, today announced that a study presented at the 2008 Annual Scientific Meeting of the International Society for Minimally Invasive Cardiothoracic Surgery (ISMICS) found Starion's Tissue Ligating Shears provides a safe and effective solution for endoscopic harvesting of the radial artery and saphenous vein.

Minimally invasive vessel harvesting is an important technique for coronary artery bypass graft procedures. While devices are available for either radial artery or saphenous vein harvesting, access to a single system with which to perform both procedures has been limited.

The study, *Safety and Efficacy of a Single System for Minimally Invasive Harvesting of Both Radial Artery and Saphenous Vein*, was led by Guido Gelpi, M.D. from the Cardiovascular Division of L. Sacco Hospital, University of Milan, Milan, Italy. Gelpi and his team assessed the safety and efficacy of a single system (Starion Tissue Ligating Shears and Datascope retractor and vessel extractor) with which to harvest both the radial artery and saphenous vein.

Forty patients were prospectively randomized. The researchers endoscopically harvested radial arteries from 10 patients and saphenous veins from another 10 patients using the Starion/Datascope system. They also harvested radial arteries from 10 patients and saphenous veins from another 10 patients using conventional, open techniques.

Besides the smaller incisions and higher patient satisfaction, the endoscopically harvested groups presented with no skin dehiscence.

“Starion's Tissue Ligating Shears coupled with Datascope's retractor and dissector represent an ideal system for endoscopic harvesting of ***both the radial artery and saphenous vein***,” said Dr. Gelpi. “This single, safe and effective system does not alter artery or vein vasoreactivity and shows good results in terms of efficiency and patient satisfaction.”

About Starion Instruments

Starion develops advanced surgical devices that enhance performance, minimize risk and improve patient outcomes. Starion's instruments employ a patented Tissue Welding technology that seals and divides soft tissue with only focused heat and pressure. Known for their



effectiveness, reliability and versatility, Starion's products are used worldwide for open and endoscopic cardiac, gynecology, general surgery, otolaryngology and urology procedures. For more information, visit www.starioninstruments.com.

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