



Volcano Therapeutics Announces Two New Allowances of Patents for Thermography Methods of Detecting Vulnerable Plaque

Laguna Hills, CA - July 3, 2002 - Volcano Therapeutics, Inc. an early stage medical device company announced today that the U.S. patent office has allowed two new patents covering methods of identifying vulnerable plaque through the use of intravascular thermography. Volcano Therapeutics is focused on the discovery, development and commercialization of products for the detection and treatment of vulnerable plaques located in the coronary or peripheral arteries.

These two new patent allowances have very specific method claims to the use of intravascular thermography to detect vulnerable plaque. Some of the key claims of the first allowed patent read as follows:

A method of identifying a vulnerable atherosclerotic plaque in a living vessel comprising the steps of: detecting a region along the luminal wall having a temperature that is higher than that of an adjacent region; and locating the vulnerable plaque based upon the higher temperature of the detected region. The method of the previous claim wherein said detecting comprises measuring the temperature of a plurality of sites along the lumen wall of said vessel, determining average vessel wall temperature and determining a temperature elevation in at least one said site of up to 5 degrees C above said vessel wall temperature. The method of the 1st claim wherein said detecting comprises employing an intravenous or non-invasive thermography device. A method of identifying a vulnerable atherosclerotic plaque in a living endarterectomy specimen comprising the steps of: detecting a region of said specimen having a temperature that is higher than that of an adjacent region; and locating the vulnerable plaque based upon the higher temperature of the detected region.

Some of the key claims of the second allowed patent read as follows: a method of detecting along a vessel wall an atherosclerotic plaque at risk of reducing fluid flow within said vessel, the method comprising determining whether said plaque or a region thereof exhibits an elevated temperature compared to the temperature of at least one adjacent vessel wall site. A method of identifying an atherosclerotic plaque at risk of rupture or thrombosis in a living vessel, the method comprising measuring the temperature of at least two sites along the lumen wall of said vessel and detecting a temperature elevation of about 0.4 to 4 degrees C at one said site compared to the temperature of at least one other said site. The method of either of these first two claims further comprising determining average vessel wall temperature and measuring a temperature difference of about 0.4 to 4 degrees C between at least one vessel wall site and said average temperature.

Scott Huennekens, President & CEO of Volcano Therapeutics, noted that the allowed patent method claims of these new patents expand Volcano's broad patent protection for thermography and represent significant additions to Volcano's intellectual property portfolio. In the U.S., Volcano believes it will be difficult to manufacture and sell intravascular thermography systems for detection of vulnerable plaque without violating Volcano's broad patent portfolio. Additionally, Volcano continues to expand its leadership position in diagnostic and therapeutic devices focused on vulnerable plaque with over 15 additional U.S. provisional or patent applications pending and the aggressive pursuit of patent protection of its IP portfolio outside the U.S.

About Volcano Therapeutics

Volcano Therapeutics, Inc., a privately held early stage medical device company with headquarters in Laguna Hills, CA, was founded in 2001. Volcano is focused on the discovery, development and commercialization of products for the detection and treatment of vulnerable plaque in the coronary arteries and peripheral vascular system. Currently under development are technologies that could be potentially useful in detecting and treating patients who are at risk for developing plaque rupture and subsequent adverse cardiac events. For more information, please visit us at www.volcanotherapeutics.com.

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