

Financings: EndroGastric Solutions gets \$30M in private funding for GERD treatment

Staff Report

EndoGastric Solutions (EGS; San Mateo, California), a specialist in endoluminal reconstructive treatment for gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), has raised \$30 million in an internal round of financing.

Existing investors including Advanced Technology Ventures, Canaan Partners, Chicago Growth Partners, De Novo Ventures, Foundation Medical Partners, Oakwood Medical Investors and Radius Ventures participated in the Series G financing round.

"This is a pivotal time in the company's evolution," said Michael Carusi, EGS board member and general partner of Advanced Technology Ventures. "The current management team is focused on a commercialization strategy that is balanced between investments in on-going product development, clinical data, healthcare economics and supporting trained physicians."

GERD is a condition caused by anatomical changes where the muscle at the base of the esophagus relaxes between swallows, allowing corrosive stomach acid to wash back up into the esophagus. The stomach produces hydrochloric acid after a meal to aid in the digestion of food. The cells that line the stomach consists of protective mucus that protect it from erosion, but the lining of the esophagus does not share these resistant features and stomach acid can damage it.

EGS's EsophyX device was FDA cleared in 2007, and is inserted transorally with visual guidance from an endoscope. The EsophyX device is used in the TIF procedure to reconstruct the gastroesophageal valve (GEV), restoring its competency and reestablishing the barrier to reflux. The TIF procedure is a surgical solution that corrects the root cause of Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease (GERD). The TIF procedure is based on traditional surgical principles and offers similar effectiveness to a surgical repair with the safety profile of an incision-free approach (*Medical Device Daily*, May 6, 2014).

In other financings news, **Qiagen** (Venlo, the Netherlands) reported the authorization for a new \$100 million share repurchase program.

Qiagen says it aims to continue accelerating the pace of innovation and growth in 2014 by executing on initiatives to expand its leadership in addressing the rapidly evolving needs of customers to transform biological samples into valuable molecular insights.

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