GraMedica: Paving the Way to a Better Sinus Tarsi Stent

By Bianca Bering

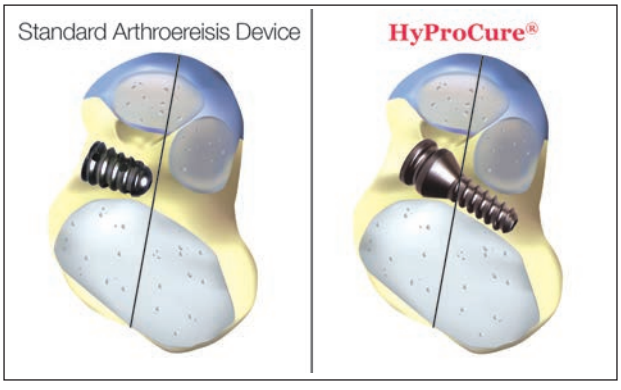
Michael E. Graham founded the orthopedic solutions company GraMedica on a mission to correct recurrent talotarsal dislocation and raise awareness for the commonly misdiagnosed disorder, thus changing the game for sinus tarsi implants globally.

Throughout his many years as a podiatric surgeon, Graham observed that the recurrent partial dislocation of the talus on the tarsal mechanism leads to a dynamic strain on the soft and osseous structures within the foot and also creates an imbalance to the knees, hips and back. He also noticed that a large number of his patients suffering from this condition were experiencing pain from the displacement of their arthroereisis devices, causing a high percentage in removal rate (> 40%).

"We found that the devices were becoming displaced because of their joint blocking properties; the talus literally smashes into the stent causing it to dislodge and cause pain." said Graham. "Furthermore, patients who had had their devices removed were left with few options—leave the foot untreated and live with excessive strain and pain in the body, or face painful, invasive reconstructive surgery and a long healing process."

Designing the Implant

Unsatisfied with the alternative options, Graham decided to use his extensive knowledge of the structure of the foot and years of podiatric experience to design an implant that could internally stabilize the talus on the calcaneus, while still allowing for natural range of motion in the talotarsal joint.



Over 10 years and 40,000 procedures later, Graham's design, HyProCure, has become the "sinus tarsi stent of choice" by podiatric and orthopedic surgeons in nearly 50 countries. The difference is its unique shape and placement. HyProCure is medially anchored into the canalis portion of the sinus tarsi, allowing it to stabilize the talus without blocking the joint. "HyProCure offers a smooth conical portion where the talar stabilization occurs." explains Graham. "This gives the talus the ability to glide smoothly over it, rather than collide with it, like other devices."

In an effort to bring awareness to the benefits of HyProCure, Graham has worked tirelessly to expand the scientific evidence of extra-osseous talotarsal stabilization (EOTTS), publishing more than a dozen peer-reviewed articles. He also travels extensively across the globe to lecture and train surgeons on EOTTS.

Educating Surgeons and Helping the Underprivileged

More recently, GraMedica has begun sponsoring HyProCure procedures for underprivileged families as a way to not only help those in need of sinus tarsi stents, but to also train doctors to perform the procedure. The most recent training occurred this past June where Dr. Aramiz Durán and Dr. Juan Goez worked together to train colleagues at Instituto Nacional de Pediatría, the largest pediatric hospital in Mexico.

"The trainings have been an amazing way of accomplishing our goals—helping people and spreading knowledge about a simple procedure that has the potential to improve the quality of life for so many", says another longtime HyProCure advocate, Dr. James Bender. "We're really focused on making this option available and affordable for everyone."

Graham and Bender have worked together for many years to educate surgeons on the benefit of HyProCure over traditional methods. When they met, Bender had also been experiencing the same frustrations Graham had had at his own practice. "I was looking for alternative solutions to devices that were on the market. I was leery at first, but after seeing the evidence and positive impact HyProCure had made in his patients, I decided to offer the option at my own practice. In fact, not only have my patient's benefited from HyProCure, but I've also undergone the procedure, as well as my wife, son and daughter, with great success."

Graham has been overwhelmed with the amount of support he's seen. "One of the best compliments is when a colleague has HyProCure inserted into their own feet, or a family members", said Graham. "It really shows a true faith in the device."

Bender added "Because of HyProCure, we are now able to realign the hindfoot in both children and adults through a minimal incision without cutting or fusing bones. We've saved patients from requiring extensive surgery to their knees, hips and back and we're incredibly proud of that."

For more information, please visit HyProCure.com or *click here.*