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NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THEKEN COLLABORATES WITH SPINE SURGEON ON NEW SPINAL SCREW TECHNOLOGY

Eric A. Seybold, MD works with Theken Spine to develop a fenestrated, friction head, polyaxial screw which received FDA clearance

AKRON, OH (September 6, 2007) Theken Spine, a leader in spinal fixation systems, announces that Dr. Eric A. Seybold, a spine surgeon from Binghamton, NY in conjunction with Theken Spine developed a unique patent-pending spinal pedicle screw. The pedicle screw is a fenestrated, friction-head, polyaxial screw intended for use in the thoracic and lumbar regions of the spine for fixation of the vertebrae during surgery. This screw will be an addition to the Theken Coral Spinal System.

Eric A. Seybold, MD and Theken Spine started product development in late 2005. "Dr. Seybold presented his idea to Theken. It was such a solid product concept that shortly after the meeting we began development," states Dale Davison, VP of Engineering, Theken Spine.

Theken Spine and Dr. Seybold worked closely with Lourdes Hospital in Binghamton, NY during this early phase of product development and appreciate the cooperation and support they received.

With this unique spinal screw design, the surgeon can determine during surgery if the screw tip has violated the safe areas of the pedicle wall before the screw is fully inserted. This allows for improved patient safety during surgery. There were no products on the market which met Dr. Seybold's needs, so instead of accepting this fact, he visited spinal fixation implant manufacturers and presented his idea, states Davison. "We were pleased he chose Theken to help bring his vision to market."

Dr. Seybold states, "I knew it was possible and had seen related technology applied in other orthopedic applications. Theken was easy to work with. They not only embraced my idea but they followed through and brought it to market."

The fenestrated screws have side bores in the distal screw threads that are perpendicular to the axis of the screw. The side bores allow for the option of saline or a radiopaque dye to be injected

at the screw tip to determine if the pedicle wall was violated. The surgeon can visualize the screw tip on fluoroscopy and know the dye is being injected only at the tip of the screw. As the screw is inserted, the surgeon can re-direct if needed prior to inserting the screw fully into the pedicle. The pedicle is a dense portion of bone in the vertebral body which can serve as an anchor point for spine fusion devices.

The Coral fenestrated screws are in the alpha launch phase and expect to enter full launch by the end of 2007.

Eric A. Seybold, MD Biography:

Eric A. Seybold, MD is in private practice at Orthopedic Associates in Binghamton, NY . He is also a clinical instructor for the Department of Orthopedic Surgery at SUNY Health Science Center. Dr. Seybold graduated medical school with honors from SUNY Health Science Center in Syracuse, NY. He completed his orthopedic surgery residency at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center and completed his spine fellowship at SUNY Health Science Center. He has over 10 published articles and actively participates in round tables and presentation engagements.

About Theken, a family of companies

The Theken (Pronounced 'tay-ken') family of companies Theken Spine, LLC, Theken Disc, LLC, Theken Orthopaedic, Inc. and Therics, LLC (www.theken.com) specializes in pioneering spinal implant technologies that improve spinal surgical techniques benefiting patients as well as surgeons. Theken provides comprehensive product lines that offer surgeons peace of mind through steadfast product reliability and easy-to-use instrumentation. Products include cervical plates, pedicle screws, spacers, degenerative/deformity and trauma devices. Theken also leads the market in next generation artificial disc replacement technology.

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