



Charles River Laboratories Montreal Utilizes Vivometrics Lifeshirt In Groundbreaking Non-Invasive, Ambulatory, Respiratory and Ecg Preclinical Studies

Non-Invasive Technology Established as Highly Effective Tool in Research Involving Animal Subjects

VENTURA, Calif. - October 24, 2005 - Charles River Laboratories Preclinical Services Montreal, in partnership with VivoMetrics[®], today announced results of the first preclinical research studies using the LifeShirt[®] System, a non-invasive, ambulatory monitoring technology developed by VivoMetrics. After employing a version of the LifeShirt suitable for animals, it was determined that the technology is equivalent and in some cases superior to traditional research methods that often involve invasive surgery with implanted monitoring devices. With non-invasive procedures being less costly and increasingly beneficial to the welfare of animals involved in preclinical studies, both companies are hopeful that the results will have a widespread effect on the current state of the preclinical research community.

While traditional measurement methods require extended pre-study acclimation of animal subjects using restraint or other methods to restrict movement, sometimes providing variable results, the LifeShirt provides for data collection from conscious and unrestrained animals. In addition, integrated cardiac and respiratory data collection in a single study has the potential to reduce the number of animals involved in testing.

In their research, Charles River Laboratories conducted two separate studies with dogs and non-human primates as subjects, in which data collected from the VivoMetrics LifeShirt was compared with that obtained by means of traditional preclinical methods. In the first study, researchers monitored the heart rate and electrocardiogram (ECG) signals of the animals, where the LifeShirt's results were measured against those of an implanted telemetry device; the LifeShirt was found to be comparable in accuracy, without many of the risk factors of traditional methods. In the second study, researchers investigated respiratory data from dogs and non-human primates, comparing the use of the LifeShirt to a traditional mask and pneumotach system. In this case, the LifeShirt was highly successful in detecting real-time respiratory changes in the animals, including those from inhalation administration, which would not have been possible using traditional equipment.

"The LifeShirt is an immensely valuable new tool that allows for the collection and analysis of some data types that could not be determined previously by researchers," said Steve Mason, Principal Scientist at Charles River Laboratories Montreal. "The results of our studies demonstrate the accuracy of the LifeShirt

against traditional methods and how it provides the added benefits of being able to collect continuous, long-term data from animals in a non-invasive and ambulatory manner."

"VivoMetrics is extremely pleased with the validation of our LifeShirt System and the contribution it will make to animal welfare," stated Paul Kennedy, President and CEO of VivoMetrics. "We strive to improve healthcare and believe that engaging in this critical research will further enable companies like Charles River Laboratories to bring life enhancing solutions to the market."

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