

OptiMedica expands footprint in Japan

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Singapore: Global ophthalmic company OptiMedica has expanded international market adoption of its Catalys Precision Laser System with new installations at the premier Shinagawa LASIK Center in Tokyo and Santa Maria Eye Clinic in Sakaide, Kagawa, Japan. The Catalys Precision Laser System allows surgeons to perform custom cataract procedures with unparalleled precision, exceptional patient comfort and a markedly streamlined workflow. Dr Minoru Tomita and Dr Kunihiro Nagahara, of the respective centers, have joined a rapidly growing installed base of Catalys customers that include more than 20 centers in seven countries. To date, Catalys has been used to perform more than 3,000 laser cataract procedures worldwide.

"My experience with Catalys has been excellent," said Dr Nagahara, who previously developed the Phaco Chop technique for removing the cataractous lens. "Using the system, I've been able to achieve 100 percent free-floating capsulotomies; intraocular lens centration exactly as intended; and a dramatic reduction in phacoemulsification energy during lens fragmentation, even with cataracts as hard as grade 3 and 4. These results are simply not possible with the traditional manual approach."

Clinical study data has shown that Catalys delivers precision that is an order of magnitude greater than manual technique, with incisions that are accurate within tens of microns of intended. 1,2 (For visual reference, the width of a human hair is approximately 85 microns.) Moreover, Catalys' proprietary lens fragmentation capability has been shown to reduce the amount of effective phacoemulsification time needed to remove the cataractous lens by up to 96 percent, providing a gentler and potentially safer procedure for patients and an enhanced experience for surgeons.³

"We chose Catalys at Shinagawa because we are confident that it is the best femtosecond laser cataract system available," said Dr Tomita, a globally recognized ophthalmic thought leader and leading refractive surgeon at the prestigious Shinagawa LASIK Center. "The system delivers complete capsulotomies, and, in some cases, lens fragmentation can be done with zero

phacoemulsification time. Patient satisfaction has been very high due to the very short amount of time required for the operation and the fact that most have had their procedure performed with zero phacoemulsification time. At our clinic, over 80 percent of the patients are choosing laser cataract surgery and are willing to pay the additional costs for the option."

OptiMedica President and Chief Executive Officer Mark J Forchette commented on the new customer relationships in Japan. "We are very honored to add the Shinagawa LASIK Center and Santa Maria Eye Clinic to our esteemed global list of surgeon customers. They are world-class practices known for offering only the best technology, and we are delighted they have selected Catalys as the laser cataract surgery platform of choice for their patients."