



## IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Teleflex Medical Launches New, High Strength Orthopaedic Surgical Suture Now Available to OEMs**

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*Braided suture with 47 percent better knot break strength introduced; new offering to private label market can enhance product portfolio while lowering research, regulatory and manufacturing costs*

(March 5, 2004, Fall River, MA) Teleflex Medical, a leading global supplier of surgical instruments, medical devices, and health care supplies, today announced the availability of **FORCE FIBER™**, a new non-absorbable surgical suture composed of a unique, ultra-high-molecular-weight polyethylene fiber. Distributed braided and undyed (white) in size 2-0 through 2, it offers greater tensile strength than polyester and polyblend suture, as well as increased lubricity and superior knot break strength.

"Prior to the launch of **FORCE FIBER**, the orthopaedic suture market was targeted exclusively to hospital suppliers, not OEMs," says Norman Gordon, VP of Product Development at the California-based OEM, Opus Medical, Inc. "Teleflex Medical has bridged this gap developing a superior brand that will add value to OEM partners while lowering research, regulatory and manufacturing costs. **FORCE FIBER** is a model of how Teleflex Medical can collaborate with the private label market to identify needs and deliver solutions to bring products to life."

#### 2-2-2-2, **FORCE FIBER™**

Opus Medical will launch **FORCE FIBER** as an adjunct to its current suture product. “It will be marketed under the name of Magnum Wire,” says Gordon, “and loaded into our proprietary suture cartridges for use with our SmartStitch suturing device.”

“**FORCE FIBER** is an innovative combination of the highest quality materials that result in unique braid construction, contributing to its superior strength” explains David Faris, Manager, Teleflex Medical OEM Products. “Based on in-house testing performance data, the product has 47 percent higher knot strength than its nearest competitor and outperforms polyester and polyblend suture with the same diameter.”

Designed for a wide range of procedures, **FORCE FIBER** is ideal for use in approximation and/or ligation of soft tissues, including the use of allograft tissue for orthopaedic procedures. It can be ordered in spools; cut lengths and sterile packs (with or without attached needles); preloaded in assembled medical devices or packaged as a standard suture product for surgery.

Teleflex Medical custom packages and private labels a variety of single-use and reusable medical products. The company polymerizes, extrudes, braids, dyes, and coats a wide variety of suture materials in-house and has capabilities to enhance other properties of the material to meet exact customer requirements.

Through its Deknatel™ brand, Teleflex Medical has a wealth of experience in the development and manufacturing of specialty suture and fibers. Deknatel's reputation and commitment to innovation and manufacturing excellence have resulted in a full-line of high quality surgical suture materials with 510(k) and CE Mark approvals, including:

- ◆ Polydek® and Tevdek® PTFE coated and uncoated braided polyester
- ◆ Deklene® monofilament polypropylene
- ◆ Nylon monofilament
- ◆ Orthodek® braided long term absorbable PLLA
- ◆ **FORCE FIBER** the newest and highest strength surgical suture

### 3-3-3-3, **FORCE FIBER™**

These products come from one of the few vertically integrated full line suture companies with the capability of customizing the product performance to your specific application needs. This, along with Deknatel's strong brand name and tradition, will guarantee the highest quality surgical suture.

FDA approved, **FORCE FIBER** contains **Dyneema® Purity**, the ultimate raw material fiber for high performance applications. Produced by DSM Dyneema in the Netherlands, Dyneema Purity is pound-for-pound 15 times stronger than steel. Combining the capabilities of Deknatel with the technical know-how and superior strength of Dyneema Purity creates a truly superior suture— **FORCE FIBER**.

Teleflex Medical has a long history of world-class manufacturing and extensive capabilities in GMP/QSR and ISO9001 compliant facilities. The company offers comprehensive medical device OEM manufacturing services ranging from component manufacturing to contract assembly, packaging, and sterilization of your custom devices. "We're a one-stop-shop with a dedicated OEM engineering and technical services group to assure success for your product as it evolves from concept to development to market," says Faris. "Our OEM team is dedicated to achieving the highest standards of quality and performance, while striving to meet budget and schedule constraints."

As part of the Teleflex Medical OEM team, Beere™ and KMedic®, the leading suppliers of orthopaedic and spinal surgical instruments, are partnering in a strategic initiative that will revolutionize the procurement and development of surgical instruments. Beere, known for its innovation and precision machined instruments, and KMedic, the industry leader in handcrafted instruments, have come together to bring the OEM market a total offering.

For more information on **FORCE FIBER** go to [www.forcefiber.com](http://www.forcefiber.com) or call 1-800-474-0178 to talk to a Teleflex Medical Specialist and obtain a sample.

Teleflex Medical, a division of Teleflex Incorporated, is a leading global supplier of surgical instruments, medical devices, and health care devices for the cardiovascular, general surgery, urology, gynecology, ENT, and orthopedic

4-4-4-4, **FORCE FIBER™**

markets. Teleflex Medical markets health care supplies for anesthesia and urology under the Rusch® brand name and surgical instruments and medical devices under the Beere, CV Evolutions, KMedic, Pleur-evac®, Pilling®, and Weck® brand names. The company also offers instrument services for integrated health networks and custom instrument design and manufacture for OEM's.

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