Press Information

November 4, 2024

**Philips enrolls first patient in U.S. clinical trial for innovative integrated single-device to treat peripheral artery disease**

* *With a unique world-first ability to perform laser atherectomy and laser-based intravascular lithotripsy using a single device, Philips takes a major step forward in the treatment of peripheral artery disease (PAD)*
* *Cardiovascular Institute of the South successfully treats first patient in the U.S. using Philips’ innovative laser system, marking a milestone in advancing personalized care for PAD patients*

**Amsterdam, the Netherlands –** [Royal Philips](http://www.philips.com/newscenter) (NYSE: PHG, AEX: PHIA), a global leader in health technology, today announced enrollment of the first patient in the U.S. THOR IDE clinical trial, which will study an innovative combined laser atherectomy and intravascular lithotripsy catheter developed by Philips, that integrates two critical PAD treatments into a single device. Procedures that previously required the use of two different devices can now be performed in a single procedure using a single device, simplifying workflows and procedures and potentially reducing the risk and improving outcomes for patients who might otherwise face multiple complex interventions.

The Cardiovascular Institute of the South in Louisiana recently completed the first case using the new laser catheter. The care team there successfully treated a 78-year-old male with peripheral vascular disease using the Philips device.

“Developing and driving clinical evidence is crucial to improving care and guiding the adoption of new technologies like the Philips laser atherectomy and lithotripsy system,” said Drs. Craig Walker and McCall Walker of Cardiovascular Institute of the South in Louisiana. “This trial will provide essential data to demonstrate how this combined approach can optimize procedural efficiency and patient outcomes in treating challenging calcified lesions.”

This ground-breaking first procedure not only marks the launch of the THOR IDE trial. It also showcases how this innovative new technology, which resulted from Philips’ powerful in-house development capabilities, can ease the patient experience by streamlining complex interventions into a single procedure, potentially reducing the need for multiple interventions and hospital visits.

The goal of this pivotal study is to evaluate the safety and efficacy of using this unique laser device — a first-of-its-kind solution that integrates laser atherectomy and intravascular lithotripsy in a single device to treat complex, calcified lesions in a single procedure for patients with peripheral artery disease (PAD), restoring blood flow to their legs.

**Significantly simplifying the treatment workflow**

[PAD](https://www.akamai.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/peripheral-artery-disease/symptoms-causes/syc-20350557) is a common and serious condition that affects millions of people worldwide, particularly older adults and those with diabetes or high cholesterol. It leads to reduced blood flow to the limbs, often resulting in severe pain, ulcers, and, in extreme cases, limb amputation [1]. Patients with calcified lesions represent a particularly challenging group, as traditional treatment options often involve multiple steps and devices, increasing procedural complexity and risk.

The Philips laser catheter integrates two critical PAD treatments into a single device, significantly simplifying the treatment workflow – atherectomy to remove atherosclerotic plaque from the internal surface of an artery, and intravascular lithotripsy to modify calcium deposits within the artery or disrupt calcium deposits in the artery wall. The unique and highly innovative feature of the Philips catheter is that both the atherectomy and lithotripsy are laser-driven. Compared to conventional intravascular lithotripsy devices, which require the use of a separate ultrasound catheter to create calcium-disrupting sonic shockwaves, the Philips device uses a pulsed laser to instantly vaporize fluid within the blood vessel to create bubbles that expand and then rapidly collapse, generating the required sonic waves as they do so.

**Prospective, single-arm, multicenter study**

The prospective, single-arm, multicenter [study](https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?term=thor%20philips) will enroll up to 155 patients at up to 30 sites in the U.S. Conducted under an Investigational Device Exemption (IDE) from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), it will assess the system's safety and effectiveness in achieving procedural success with a low rate of complications.

The study’s primary endpoints include freedom from major adverse events (MAEs) such as mortality, unplanned amputations, and clinically driven target lesion revascularization (CD-TLR) within 30 days (about four and a half weeks) of the procedure, as well as achieving less than or equal to 50% residual stenosis post-procedure. Patients will be followed for 12 months.

“This innovative approach to vessel preparation could improve patient outcomes while minimizing the need for multiple therapies and interventions. That makes this an exciting innovation milestone as we enroll the first patient in this important U.S. clinical trial,” said Dr. Genovese, MD, vascular surgeon and co-principal investigator of the THOR\* trial at the Penn Advanced Limb Preservation, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. “Integrating atherectomy and intravascular lithotripsy into a single device has the potential to revolutionize the treatment of patients with complex femoropopliteal lesions associated with moderate to severe calcifications.”

Stacy Beske, Business Leader, Philips Image Guided Therapy Devices, added: “A result of Philips’ extensive in-house innovation and development capabilities, our combined laser atherectomy and intravascular lithotripsy device reflects our commitment to providing physicians with the tools they need to tackle complex vascular challenges more efficiently and effectively, potentially transforming treatment paradigms for peripheral artery disease. Philips is dedicated to clinically validating its innovations through rigorous trials and does so in collaboration with strong clinical partners.”

The Philips laser atherectomy and intravascular lithotripsy system is currently investigational and not yet commercially available anywhere in the world, including the United States.

[1] [Peripheral artery disease (PAD) - Symptoms and causes - Mayo Clinic](https://www.akamai.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/peripheral-artery-disease/symptoms-causes/syc-20350557)

**For further information, please contact:**

Joost Maltha

Philips External Relations

Tel: +31 6 10558116

Email: [joost.maltha@philips.com](mailto:joost.maltha@philips.com)

### About Royal Philips

Royal Philips (NYSE: PHG, AEX: PHIA) is a leading health technology company focused on improving people's health and well-being through meaningful innovation. Philips’ patient- and people-centric innovation leverages advanced technology and deep clinical and consumer insights to deliver personal health solutions for consumers and professional health solutions for healthcare providers and their patients in the hospital and the home.  
  
Headquartered in the Netherlands, the company is a leader in diagnostic imaging, ultrasound, image-guided therapy, monitoring and enterprise informatics, as well as in personal health. Philips generated 2023 sales of EUR 18.2 billion and employs approximately 69,300 employees with sales and services in more than 100 countries. News about Philips can be found at [www.philips.com/newscenter](https://www.philips.com/a-w/about/news/home.html).