

A&D Company, Limited and AtCor Medical to consider central blood pressure measurement equipment business collaboration

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A&D Company, Limited will consider business collaboration with aortic pressure measurement equipment pioneer AtCor Medical.

AtCor Medical Pty Ltd. established its headquarters in Australia in 1993 and is involved with the development and production of healthcare testing equipment. Their flagship product, the SphygmoCor system, used for measuring central aortic pressure, has sold over 3,900 systems worldwide and is considered the global gold standard for this measurement.

Normally, blood pressure is measured through a cuff attached to the upper arm. This is called peripheral blood pressure. It has been confirmed, however, that blood pressure measured from the upper arm can differ from blood pressure inside the heart due to the condition of the blood vessels. Blood pressure originating from the aorta in the heart is called central aortic pressure. Until recently, the common method of measuring aortic pressure has been to use catheters, however, there are many risks to inserting catheters into the body and measurement cannot be obtained easily. Tonometry*, a non-invasive method used to measure aortic pressure, is where a waveform obtained from measurement is analyzed and aortic pressure is estimated. It was the leading method for measuring aortic pressure non-invasively. Nevertheless, devices that use tonometry require training and experienced operators, limiting their use. In recent years, devices that measure aortic pressure through a cuff attached to the upper arm, like traditional blood pressure monitors, have been developed and measuring aortic blood pressure has become easier.

Use of aortic pressure measurement is recognized by the American Heart Association and the European Society of Hypertension and is expected to spread to Japan in the near future.

AtCor Medical is a pioneer in the field of aortic pressure measurement and as a global leader in this field. A&D is considering business collaboration. As the first step A&D will consider selling AtCor Medical's aortic pressure measurement device, SphygmoCor XCEL, in Japan.

*Tonometry: A method of measuring blood pressure by pressing a pressure gauge against the skin to the blood vessel wall and obtaining a blood pressure value when part of the arterial wall is flattened.

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