



The OmniGuide Fiber for Flexible Delivery of CO₂ Lasers in Head & Neck Surgical Applications Featured in the Laryngoscope

Cambridge, MA – August 25, 2005 – The OmniGuide fiber, a revolutionary hollow-core photonic bandgap fiber for surgical applications developed by OmniGuide, Inc. (www.Omni-Guide.com), was featured in the August 2005 issue of the Laryngoscope, a leading medical journal.

The Laryngoscope is the official publication of the American Laryngological, Rhinological and Otological Society Inc., also known as the Triological Society. The peer-reviewed publication focuses on the potential use of OmniGuide's FDA-cleared fiber technology for head and neck surgeries, and specifically for laryngeal procedures. The study, conducted by researchers at Boston Medical Center, and led by Dr. Stanley Shapshay, describes the OmniGuide fiber as an "effective and adaptive tool for use in head and neck surgery." The article details further potential benefits associated with OmniGuide's fibers: "In the operating room the ease and flexibility can translate into improving efficiency of endoscopic surgical procedures. A subsequent decrease in operating room time with improvement in patient care can be achieved. ...this fiber also has the physical and functional characteristics to be used in an outpatient clinic setting. ...treatment of lesions previously inaccessible in an outpatient setting may be undertaken without need for a general anesthetic."

The CO₂ laser, offering unparalleled precision and control over penetration in soft tissue procedures, has been a standard surgical tool for over 30 years. However, silica fibers cannot deliver the CO₂ laser as they are opaque at the CO₂ laser wavelength. Currently, CO₂ lasers are delivered via cumbersome articulated arms restricting their surgical utility. OmniGuide has developed a flexible fiber capable of transmitting CO₂ laser energy for surgical applications through rigid or flexible endoscopy. OmniGuide's fibers will revolutionize surgical capabilities in head and neck surgery, reduce overall surgical time and cost, enable easier access to the treated site. Moreover, they will facilitate minimally invasive treatment modalities, such as office based surgeries, thus eliminating the need for general anesthesia.

Dr. Stanley Shapshay, Professor of Otolaryngology at Mount Sinai School of Medicine, added: "I have been involved in research and development of laser based surgical techniques for over 25 years. The CO₂ laser has been a workhorse in laryngeal surgeries since its introduction in 1972, but the main limitation has always been the lack of a flexible delivery system. OmniGuide's technology shows tremendous promise for providing the long awaited solution. This technology may allow the shift of tens of thousand of surgeries every year from the operating room to the office through flexible endoscopy. We intend to validate this hypothesis in the upcoming months at Mount Sinai's Grabscheid Voice Center."

Dr. Steve Sheng, OmniGuide's CEO and President commented: "We believe this is the first of many world-class publications to be generated from the groundbreaking use of our fiber products in various surgical fields. The Laryngoscope is probably the most important publication in ENT and we view this as a major milestone and endorsement of our technology. OmniGuide will continue to push the envelope on the medical standard of care and to provide the long awaited solutions for minimally invasive surgery. Specifically, we will target office-based laryngeal procedures through our ongoing collaboration with Drs. Shapshay and Woo at Mount Sinai, and Dr. Koufman at Wake Forest University."

Yoel Fink, John Joannopoulos and Edwin Thomas, all faculty members at MIT, and Uri Kolodny, founded OmniGuide in May 2000, in order to commercialize patented research conducted at MIT on omni-directional reflectors. Based in Cambridge MA, where its corporate offices and labs are located, OmniGuide has an exclusive license from MIT on omnidirectional reflectors and OmniGuide fibers. The company has raised \$29.5M from Ray Stata, Mukesh Chatter, Alliance Technology Ventures, 3i US, Westbury Partners, and Gainesborough Investments. OmniGuide's progress to date has captured broad attention in both scientific and popular venues.

The Laryngoscope article can be downloaded from OmniGuide's website at:

<http://www.omni-guide.com/Pages/tech.html>

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