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FIRST NORTH AMERICAN SURGERY USING BIORTHEX'S ACTIPORE™ PLFx DEVICE

Montreal, CANADA, December 19, 2003 – Biorthex Inc., a medical device company specializing in the development of spinal implants, is proud to announce the first North American surgery using the company's new trapezoid shape posterior lumbar fusion device *Actipore™ PLFx*. The surgery was performed with success by Dr. Peter Jarzem, Chief of Orthopaedics at the Santa-Cabrini Hospital in Montreal on November 12, 2003. The product, manufactured from porous nitinol, is the company's second generation of lumbar interbody fusion devices indicated for the treatment of lower back pain associated with degenerative disc disease.

"I am very pleased with the outcome of this first surgery using the new trapezoid shape implants. The patient who underwent the procedure has excellent post operative results, experiencing significant pain relief in the lower back area", said Dr. Jarzem.

The new *Actipore™ PLFx* device has many advantages. Its trapezoid shape offers a large support area and also considerably reduces the amount of cortical bone to be removed from the vertebral endplates. As these new implants are smaller than the previous generation, they allow a less invasive procedure and therefore maintaining bone structure stability.

Benoit Sicotte, President and CEO of Biorthex Inc. stated, "We are proud of our accomplishment in developing this new device which demonstrates the company's ability to always innovate and introduce breakthrough products in the aim of enhancing the practice of orthopaedists and neurosurgeons".

As the *Actipore™ PLFx* was recently launched in all CE Mark recognized countries, it is not yet being commercialized in North America, and therefore, the surgery performed by Dr. Jarzem was granted through Health Canada's Special Access Programme (SAP). Five additional operations using the *Actipore™ PLFx* were performed recently in Canada, through the SAP program also, namely in Ontario, New-Brunswick and British-Columbia.

Actipore™ is manufactured from porous nitinol, a unique ultra porous biologically and biomechanically compatible material, with a porous structure made of interconnected passageways, which permits bone cell penetration, long term bone cell integration and survival throughout the devices. This unique technology platform has similar mechanical properties to bone, resulting in load sharing, rapid tissue ingrowth and eliminating the requirement for additional bone graft material, thus reducing the time of surgery, the risk of complications and eliminating graft site morbidity.

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Biorthex Inc. is a medical device company that designs, develops, manufactures and markets innovative products for the surgical treatment of spinal disorders.

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