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For Immediate Release

UK medtech company demonstrates the clinical effectiveness of a radical new product that can reduce the £1bn annual UK cost of hip fractures

IBEX, the UK-based pioneer in medical X-ray imaging technology, has demonstrated in a clinical trial with a team of researchers from The James Cook University Hospital in Middlesbrough a revolutionary new technology that will provide an early warning of a patient's risk of potentially fatal fragility fractures to facilitate more timely and targeted intervention.

The NHS currently spends over £1bn per annum on the diagnosis and treatment of hip fractures, but sadly it remains the largest single cause of accident-related death in the UK with a third of patients dying within a year of first presenting at hospital. There is currently no method for routinely assessing bone health in the general population, and typically osteoporosis is only diagnosed following a serious debilitating fracture and assessment on specialist DEXA scanning equipment.

Uniquely, IBEX Trueview® software will measure a patient's bone health from a standard X-ray, meaning that the early signs of a problem can be identified from the first fracture, 10-15 years before the onset of serious osteoporosis. This will lead to earlier and population-wide assessment for osteoporosis and more timely and targeted treatment to reduce the future risk of more serious fractures.

In preliminary analysis of data from a trial of 130 patients attending for a DEXA scan at James Cook, IBEX Trueview® technology gave a better prediction of DEXA outcome than age or gender and demonstrated excellent agreement to the current gold standard CT and DEXA methods. This result confirms the huge potential Trueview has to have a major positive impact on bone health assessment. The company is now engaged in discussions with a number of major global healthcare companies to incorporate this novel feature in their standard X-ray equipment.



Professor Amar Rangan, Consultant Orthopaedic surgeon, and Chief Investigator for the clinical study commented: “The data I have seen from the study so far is fascinating and exciting, as I think it has the potential to change the way we screen individuals to assess their bone health.”

Dr Stephen Tuck, Consultant Rheumatologist and co-investigator added: “I am now convinced that this technology could make a major contribution to the identification of people with osteoporosis and at risk of fractures”

Neil Loxley, CEO of IBEX, concluded: “We are excited by the preliminary results of the trial, which we believe demonstrate the first major innovation in the osteoporosis diagnosis since the introduction of DEXA more than three decades ago. I am grateful for the support of clinical and research staff at The James Cook University Hospital and look forward to reporting progress in commercialising this new capability in the near future.”

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About IBEX Innovations - www.ibexmedical.co.uk

IBEX has been dedicated to developing innovative medical X-ray imaging software solutions since 2014 and employs a team of highly-skilled physicists, mathematicians, software engineers and business professionals at its modern facilities in the beautiful North East region of the UK.

IBEX maintains close links with Durham and Newcastle Universities and the NHS Trusts of Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals, South Tees and Gateshead.

IBEX is backed by leading Venture Capital and Corporate investors and is grateful for financial support through grants from InnovateUK. Development of the core technology has also been supported by funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement number 777835.

About South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust – www.southtees.nhs.uk

South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust's Trauma and Orthopaedic Research Team has a reputation as a leading regional and national provider of safe, innovative, high quality care and research. The research and development department is part of the newly developed Durham and Tees Valley Research Alliance (DTVRA) and provides greater opportunities and access to research for our patients in the North East region.

Research team from South Tees led by Prof Amar Rangan included, Dr Stephen Tuck, Dr Maya Jafari, Dr Lucksy Kottam, Marc Atkinson, Natalie Clark, Sarah O'Neill, Reece Walker, Damian Dunn, Juliet James and Amanda Goodman. The team is delighted with the study outcome and its potential to change future healthcare by early identification of patients at risk of poor bone health and look forward to continue their work with IBEX. The team would like to acknowledge and thank all patients who volunteered to participate in the IBEX research study, our clinical and R&D colleagues without whose support this would not have been possible.