Planmed Verity Extremity Scanner receives CE mark

Planmed Verity, a new, mobile extremity scanner for orthopedic imaging of the extremities receives the CE mark and thus, is now available for sale in the EU and many other countries where the CE certificate permits sales. Planmed Verity Extremity Scanner utilizes cone-beam CT (CBCT) technology that provides fast and accurate low-dose 3D imaging of peripheral skeletal fractures and disorders at the point-of-care. The compact, mobile device can be easily sited in any existing X-ray room, side-by-side with other imaging systems.

“As an all new approach to imaging of extremities, the Planmed Verity system has already raised a lot of interest within the field of orthopedic imaging. Now the pending system deliveries can begin”, says Mr. Vesa Mattila, Vice President of Planmed Oy.

Planmed’s innovation provides volumetric 3D imaging for accurate and fast diagnosis with a substantially lower radiation dose compared to conventional CT imaging. During the scan, which takes less than 20 seconds, images are acquired using a short X-ray pulse instead of continuous radiation. This enables a low radiation dose.

For optimum patient comfort the Planmed Verity features an adaptable, soft-surfaced gantry with a TearDrop®-shaped bore optimized for orthopedic imaging. The gantry and positioning trays are easily adjustable for imaging for example a foot, ankle, knee, hand, wrist, or elbow. Furthermore, special gantry movements allow weight-bearing 3D scans of a standing patient, a new way of extremity imaging which has not been possible with conventional CT scanners.

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Dried licorice root fights the bacteria that cause tooth decay and gum Disease

Scientists are reporting identification of two substances in licorice - used extensively in Chinese traditional medicine - that kill the major bacteria responsible for tooth decay and gum disease, the leading causes of tooth loss in children and adults. In a study in ACS’ Journal of Natural Products, they say that these substances could have a role in treating and preventing tooth decay and gum disease.

Stefan Gafner and colleagues explain that the dried root of the licorice plant is a common treatment in Chinese traditional medicine, especially as a way to enhance the activity of other herbal ingredients or as a flavoring. Despite the popularity of licorice candy in the US, licorice root has been replaced in domestic candy with anise oil, which has a similar flavor. Traditional medical practitioners use dried licorice root to treat various ailments, such as respiratory and digestive problems, but few modern scientific studies address whether licorice really works. (Consumers should check with their health care provider before taking licorice root because it can have undesirable effects and interactions with prescription drugs.) To test whether the sweet root could combat the bacteria that cause gum disease and cavities, the researchers took a closer look at various substances in licorice. They found that two of the licorice compounds, licoricidin and licorisoflavan A, were the most effective antibacterial substances. These substances killed two of the major bacteria responsible for dental cavities and two of the bacteria that promote gum disease. One of the compounds - licoricidin - also killed a third gum disease bacterium. The researchers say that these substances could treat or even prevent oral infections.