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Topic: LiGHT Trial Shows SLT is More Effective than Pharmaceuticals in First-Line Glaucoma Treatment

Adelaide, Australia, 12 March 2019 – Ellex Medical Lasers Limited (ASX:ELX; OTCQX: ELXMY, ELXMF), a world leader in medical technologies for the diagnosis and treatment of eye disease, today announced the results of LiGHT; a large multi-centre, randomised controlled trial of selective laser trabeculoplasty (SLT) versus eye drops for newly diagnosed, first-line treatment of ocular hypertension and glaucoma. The results were published in the prestigious medical journal *The Lancet*¹.

The **L**aser in **G**laucoma and Ocular **H**yper**T**ension (LiGHT) clinical trial demonstrated across 718 participants that SLT is safe and effective as a first-line treatment for open angle glaucoma and ocular hypertension. SLT provided superior intraocular pressure stability to drops, at a lower cost and, importantly, it allowed almost three quarters of patients (74%) to be successfully controlled without drops for at least 3 years after starting treatment. The study authors interpretation of the results were “Selective laser trabeculoplasty should be offered as a first-line treatment for open angle glaucoma and ocular hypertension, supporting a change in clinical practice.”

LiGHT was the first clinical trial showing a direct comparison between selective laser trabeculoplasty and intraocular pressure-lowering drops in terms of health-related quality of life, clinical, and cost-effectiveness outcomes in a pragmatic hospital setting, guided by a robust treatment escalation protocol to capture realistic clinical management while minimising risk of bias.

Mr. Tom Spurling, CEO of Ellex, commented: “We are delighted by the findings of LiGHT, which validates the benefits of SLT as a first-line treatment option for untreated, newly diagnosed patients with ocular hypertension and glaucoma across a large randomised controlled trial. Not only did patients who received SLT exhibit better control of their disease at three years, none of the SLT patients’ disease progressed to a stage that required surgical intervention and overall the procedure was more cost effective than eye drops. This is a significant benefit versus eye drops, and when coupled with compliance, toxicity issues and the increased rate of cataract surgery versus SLT observed in the LiGHT trial, is expected to materially enhance clinician interest for SLT in markets such as the UK where eye drops are recommended as a first-line therapy.²”

¹ Gazzard, G. *et al.* 2019. Selective laser trabeculoplasty versus eye drops for first-line treatment of ocular hypertension and glaucoma (LiGHT): a multicentre randomised controlled trial. *The Lancet*. 393:10175.

² Glaucoma Diagnosis and Management, NICE Guideline NG81. November 2017

Mr Spurling continued: “Ellex has long contended that it has the best two treatments available for glaucoma, with our laser-based interventions to treat early-stage disease and Ellex iTrack™ for patients with more intermediate to advanced forms of glaucoma.”

Ellex is the world leader in the supply of SLT for the treatment of ocular hypertension and glaucoma with its Tango™ and Tango Reflex™ lasers having grown at a three year compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 20%. Importantly, the market remains underpenetrated in key markets where SLT is not routinely offered as a first-line treatment.

The publication is available on line at:

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(18\)32213-X/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(18)32213-X/fulltext)

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ABOUT LIGHT

The **L**aser in **G**laucoma and Ocular **H**yper**T**ension (LiGHT) clinical trial examined Health-Related Quality of Life in two treatment pathways for newly diagnosed open angle glaucoma (OAG) and ocular hypertension (OHT) in an unmasked, multi-centre, randomised controlled trial of initial selective laser trabeculoplasty (SLT) versus conventional medical therapy. The trial was conducted across six collaborating centres in the UK between 2012-2014. Of 718 patients enrolled, 356 were randomised to the selective laser trabeculoplasty and 362 to the eye drops group. The primary outcome measure was health-related quality of life measured using the EuroQol EQ-5D 5 Levels (EQ-5D-5L) utility scores at 36 months.

Secondary outcomes were: glaucoma-specific treatment related quality of life assessed with the Glaucoma Utility Index (GUI), patient-reported disease and treatment related symptoms assessed using the Glaucoma Symptom Scale (GSS); patient-reported visual function assessed using the Glaucoma Quality of Life-15 questionnaire (GQL-15); health-care resource use, clinical effectiveness (proportion of visits at target intraocular pressure, number of treatment escalations), visual function (visual acuity, visual fields), and safety. The study is registered at controlled-trials.com (ISRCTN32038223).

ABOUT ELLEX

Ellex designs, develops, manufactures and sells innovative product that help eye surgeons around the world to effectively and efficiently treat eye disease. Ellex is a world leader in this field. Headquartered in Adelaide, Australia, Ellex has ophthalmic lasers and devices that treat glaucoma, retinal disease primarily caused by diabetes, secondary cataract and vitreous opacities, as well as age-related macular degeneration. Manufacturing is carried out in Adelaide, Australia and Fremont, California. Sales and service directly to eye surgeons is

conducted via subsidiary offices in Minneapolis, Lyon, Berlin and Tokyo. A network of more than 50 distribution partners around the world services other markets.

For additional information about Ellex and its products, please visit www.ellex.com

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