

Perspectives on HyProCure

By Elizabeth Hussey

Dr. Tracy Ferragamo

Dr. Tracy Ferragamo, DPM is a podiatrist out of Davis, California who was a part of the inaugural Graham International Implant Institute class in November 2006. She has been a Master Surgeon since the inception and has been a HyProCure user for over a year and a half. Dr. Ferragamo is also one of the Master Surgeons who had Dr. Graham put the HyProCure stent in one of her feet at her Master Surgeon training.

"The most common concerns patients tend to have are: how long will I be laid up and will it really work? This is where I really have an advantage because I had the procedure performed on my left foot in November [2006] by Dr. Michael Graham in Detroit. I know firsthand what the post-op course involves. I can tell you that having had this surgery has been a great experience. I no longer develop first MPJ pain and fatigue with prolonged walking or standing. When I initially discuss this procedure with a patient, I

use a skeletal structure of the foot along with a titanium HyProCure implant (both provided by GraMedica) to demonstrate exactly how the stent works," Dr. Ferragamo explains.

As far as patient satisfaction, Dr Ferragamo had the following to say: "In the several patients in whom I've performed a subtalar arthroereisis with the HyProCure



Dr. Ferragamo

stent, about 90% have achieved the expected results of reduced foot pain of their specific condition they originally came in the office for. Four of these patients had recalcitrant plantar fasciitis which did not respond to conservative treatment. I spoke with them ahead of time and told them I

would not perform the traditional plantar fasciitis surgery (endoscopic plantar fascia release) but solely subtalar arthroereisis with the HyProCure stent. I described to the patient that this was revolutionary in that it would eliminate the overpronation and therefore take the stress off of the plantar fascia. My patients and I have been pleased with the results. In fact, all four patients no longer have plantar fasciitis symptoms."

She goes on to explain, "It would not be a stretch to say that recurrent hallux ingrown toenails are a direct result of hyperpronation. I have also had patients report decrease of medial knee pain following subtalar arthroereisis with the HyProCure stent. Overall, I would venture to say more than half of my pa-

tients come to me seeking relief of foot pain due to hyperpronation."

In discussion of the HyProCure stent in comparison to other orthotics Dr. Ferragamo says, "Before I started performing the HyProCure stent surgery, I felt "pretty good" about prescribing functional orthotics. But now, I feel even more secure in recommending a "permanent orthotic" in the form of the

HyProCure stent. Of course, I have full discussion with patients regarding their options."

Dr. Ferragamo also states, "As far as any pearls I would pass along, I would highly recommend my colleagues who are interested in using the HyProCure stent to take Dr. Graham's surgical workshop in Detroit. It was a thorough course with didactic and cadaver training. I, like most of us, have been trained for and used other surgical and non-surgical devices or procedures after training and I will unequivocally state that there has never been so much support by the pioneering surgeon and the company representing them."

Dr. Anthony Weinert

Practicing in Warren, Michigan, Dr. Anthony Weinert DPM, FAC-FAS, Chief, Department of Podiatric Medicine & Surgery, Henry Ford Macomb Hospital-Warren Campus, has been a Master Surgeon since completing the Graham Inter-



Dr. Weinert

national Implant Institute training and seminar in March of 2007. Dr. Weinert is a firm believer in the advantages of attending the seminar and what it can do for any doctor as far as using HyProCure properly.

"I think that attending the Graham seminar is extremely important and helpful to doctors who want to use HyProCure and those who have used it already. Attending seminar is a great advantage because it teaches doctors to take the time with the stent as well as learning exactly how to do the procedure."

When the advantages of using HyProCure are discussed Dr. Wein-

"This stent offers the most ease of application for surgeons, thus being much less traumatic for the patients."

—Dr. Weinert

Circle #154

HyProCure...

ert had the following to say, "This stent offers the most ease of application for surgeons, thus being much less traumatic for the patients. It means there is less time spent in the OR since the procedure does not take long because it is so minimally invasive. This leads to a shorter recovery time for patients, which is always a good thing."

Dr. Weinert also takes into consideration the current state of the economy in regards to patient recovery time, "I have a lot of patients who have to consider the amount of time they can take off of work. Many have jobs that require them to be back to work fairly quickly and that is not always the case with other products. With HyProCure, I know that my patients will be weight bearing almost right away and back into tennis shoes within the week. They also know when getting the HyProCure stent that they will not be immobilized as long as other procedures and they will have range of motion much quicker."

As far as patient satisfaction is concerned, "My patients seem to be happiest with this stent. I have had no removals of the HyProCure stent, nor have I had patient complaints. All that patients have said and done is send their friends and family to me to see if they are eligible candidates for the HyProCure."

Dr. Weinert has also been very pleased with the design and use of HyProCure when compared with other implants on the market, "I have used other implants and I prefer the HyProCure. I found the others a bit more difficult to place as well as requiring more incisions. The medial incision required tends to cause scar tissue, tarsal tunnel pain, as well as numbness in some patients. The HyProCure is one small incision and the placement is the easiest I have found."

Dr. Andrew Levy

Practicing in Jupiter, Florida, Andrew Levy DPM, FACFAS has been a Graham International Implant Institute Master Surgeon since attending the seminar in September of 2007. Dr. Levy became aware of the HyProCure stent at the ACFAS meeting in Florida 2 years ago. Discussing the differences in the HyProCure device and other arthroerisis devices, the advantages brought him back to a procedure that he had trained in during his residency. After placing a number of these, he took the Master Surgeon's training seminar in September 2007.

A prime reason for seeking the advantages of the HyProCure stent was for the care of his family. One of his daughters had been in UCBL type orthotics since she was 2-1/2 years old; his mother-in-law had profound deformities of both feet even after major bunion surgery and his wife saw that her feet had the same problems after her own bunion surgery. Dr. Levy believes in the axiom that "we don't fall far from the genetic family tree." Many of these deformities show up in several generations in a family. Even with orthotic control there can be a progression of deformity and not everybody can or will wear orthotics all the time.

"Dr. Levy explained "HyProCure solves issues of hyperpronation with a simple, elegant device that is minimally invasive compared to other complex reconstruction operations for the rearfoot. With this stent there is not only correction of the hyperpronation, but also other foot problems that hyperpronation causes. Now, with the Hyprocure I can



Dr. Levy

see treatment for a number of problems caused by the hyperpronation, including some forefoot problems such as bunions and hallux limitus, as well as recalcitrant heel pain, tarsal tunnel symptoms and some neuroma symptoms." When patient satisfaction is discussed, Dr. Levy comments, "I have about 35 of these stents in patients. Overall the patient response and acceptance has been very high. While that is anecdotal, we are preparing to do a more elaborated critical analysis of the outcomes and patient satisfaction levels."

Dr. Peter Bregman

Dr. Peter Bregman DPM, who practices in Massachusetts, has been a Graham International Implant Institute Master Surgeon since July of 2007 when he attended the training seminar. Since becoming a Master Surgeon he has done many surgeries using the HyProCure stent.



Dr. Bregman

He states that, "It is a very easy-to-use implant and well designed." When asked about the advantages of HyProCure in regards to solving abnormal rear foot motion he replied, "Its inherent anatomic design with flange and the lack of Fluoroscopy." Dr. Bregman goes on to discuss how the HyProCure stent recovery time is similar, and in many instances even quicker, than other procedures he has done. When patient satisfaction is discussed, Dr. Bregman has this to say, "Most of my patients are happy with this procedure, they are quite impressed."

For more information, visit www.gramedica.com or circle #154 on the reader service card.

Circle #154