

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

PRESS RELEASE

**SMG SETS TO REVIVE SINGAPORE'S REFRACTIVE SURGERY BUSINESS**

Singapore, 22 July 2014 – Singapore Medical Group (SMG) is proud to announce that its flagship clinics, The Lasik Surgery Clinic (LSC) in Singapore and the Ciputra SMG Eye Clinic in Jakarta, Indonesia have purchased the ZEISS VisuMax<sup>®</sup> Femtosecond Laser Systems.

The two eye clinics would be the first private eye clinics in Singapore and in Jakarta, Indonesia respectively to offer the most complete suite of refractive surgeries including the new laser vision correction procedure, ReLEX<sup>®</sup> SMILE, LASIK and Surface Ablations (Epi-LASIK and LASEK), addressing the different needs and profiles of patients

Since its inception in 2005, SMG has to date performed more than 75,000 refractive surgeries and its clinic, LSC remains as one of the largest and most established private laser vision correction centres in Singapore.

SMG sets to revive Singapore's shrinking refractive surgery market that has been tapering off year-on-year.

Dr Beng Teck Liang, CEO of SMG explains, "The prevalence of myopia in Singapore is one of the highest in the world, affecting around 20% of children aged 7 years old and 80% of males by the time they enter national service <sup>(1)</sup>. There is still a huge portion of our myopic population that is not educated or made aware on the latest advancements in refractive surgery and the options available. We encourage those bothered by the inconveniences of glasses and contacts lens to explore other forms of vision correction choices such ReLEX<sup>®</sup> SMILE. "

"ReLEX<sup>®</sup> SMILE is an alternative for patients who are apprehensive about LASIK and Surface Ablation procedures. We saw the potential in ReLEX<sup>®</sup> SMILE because of the benefits it brings to patients. We have also witnessed ReLEX<sup>®</sup> SMILE's success in mature markets like the Europe, Japan, Korea as well as our neighbouring countries, Thailand and Malaysia. SMG is excited to partner with ZEISS Southeast Asia to make this new generation of laser vision correction technology available to the private healthcare sector."

ReLEX<sup>®</sup> SMILE (Refractive Lenticule Extraction, Small Incision Lenticule Extraction) is a new, bladeless, flapless and micro incision refractive procedure that corrects vision problems such as shortsightedness and astigmatism. The treatment uses only one femtosecond laser for the entire procedure and it aims to reduce an individual's dependency on spectacles and contact lens to improve one's quality of life <sup>(2)</sup>.

ReLEX<sup>®</sup> SMILE is beneficial for patients who have higher degrees of myopia and astigmatism. Flap complications such as displacement or dislodgement are eliminated and it is also better suited for those with dry eyes, as less corneal nerves are affected during the treatment.

"LASIK remains a popular choice amongst patients seeking refractive surgery but other more advanced technologies such as ReLEX<sup>®</sup> SMILE are now available. SMG is a forward-looking company and the management team are keen for LSC to provide ReLEX<sup>®</sup> SMILE as one of the refractive surgery options. The LSC team looks forward to serving our patients with the latest proven refractive surgery technology," explains Dr Eugene Tay, Consultant, Ophthalmology from LSC. Dr Eugene Tay is the only ophthalmologist in the private healthcare sector currently certified to perform ReLEX<sup>®</sup> SMILE.

ReLEX<sup>®</sup> SMILE would be available at The Lasik Surgery Clinic, Paragon #13-01/06 from 21 July 2014.

References:

- (1) <http://bjo.bmj.com/content/85/5/521.full>
- (2) <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/16447932>

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**Notes to Editor**

**About Singapore Medical Group (SMG)**

Specialist Healthcare Provider

Incorporated in 2005, Singapore Medical Group (SMG) is a private specialist healthcare provider with a network of 22 specialties. The Group is committed to its promise of providing patient centered medical care and experience to every individual.

The Group currently has a total of 16 clinics strategically located in Paragon, Mount Elizabeth Novena Specialist Centre, Parkway East Medical Centre, Novena Medical Centre and Gleneagles Medical Centre with a growing network of SMGAssociates clinics across the island.

SMG operates a 24-Hour patient assistance centre hotline service that serves Singapore and international patients.

SMG is listed on the Singapore Stock Exchange (SGX) Catalist since 2009.

SMG Clinics: The Lasik Surgery Clinic, The Dental Studio, Singapore Vision Centre, Centre for Eye Surgery, The Cancer Centre - Paragon, The Cancer Centre - Mount Elizabeth Novena Hospital, The Obstetrics & Gynaecology Centre - Paragon, The Obstetrics & Gynaecology Centre - Parkway East Hospital, SMG Orthopaedic Group, SMG Neuroscience Centre, SMG Surgery Centre, SMG Specialist Centre, The Aesthetic Suite, an SMG Clinic, The Wellness Suite, an SMG Clinic and SMG Urology Centre with Beng Surgery.