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News

BioPharmica completes nitrous oxide trials

12:36, Friday, 30 September 2005

Sydney - Friday - Sept 30: (RWE Australian Business News) - BioPharmica Ltd (ASX: BPH) reports leading specialists Dr David Liley and Associate Professor Kate Leslie have completed a trial at Royal Melbourne Hospital to test the sensitivity of a new method in quantifying the effect that various levels of nitrous oxide have on measures of anaesthetic depth.

The trial at Royal Melbourne Hospital involved sixty eight patients (eight more than originally planned) who consented to being involved in the study as part of their elective surgery. While being anaesthetised patients had the electrical activity of their brain recorded from a set of electrodes placed on the forehead.

The data from these recordings were analysed using sophisticated algorithms based on a biological understanding of the dynamics of human brain electrical activity discovered by Dr David Liley.

The method is incorporated into the Brain Anaesthesia Response (BAR) monitor being developed by Cortical Dynamics and BioPharmica.

Follow-up analysis and reporting of the Royal Melbourne Hospital trial data is being conducted and results will be released when the final review has been completed.

Further trials to extend the validation of the BAR Monitor are now being planned in a series of Australian hospitals.

Discussions have also commenced with potential international collaborators.

Participants were randomly allocated to one of three groups in which they were anaesthetized with the common potent inhalational agent sevoflurane, carried in 0%, 33% or 66% nitrous oxide.

The BAR monitor is designed to detect and record the electrical activity of the human brain in order to assist anaesthetists and intensive care staff in keeping patients optimally sedated or anaesthetised.

International patent coverage is also pending regarding the use of the BAR system in a number of Neuro-diagnostic settings that include detecting the early onset of degenerative diseases like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's as well as being used in drug discovery and evaluation associated with these conditions.

ENDS

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