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Queensland Children's Hospital launches clinical study for temporal hollowing

Highlights

- Osteopore and Queensland Children's Hospital (QCH) have launched a clinical trial for the treatment of temporal hollowing in 5 paediatric patients.
- Patient recruitment for the single-arm feasibility trial is anticipated by end of 2026, with patient follow-up expected to continue for 12 months post-surgery.
- The single-arm trial seeks to assess the feasibility of a 3D-printed, patient-specific polycaprolactone-tricalcium phosphate (PCL-TCP) onlay scaffold.
- Incorporated with bone marrow aspirate and platelet-rich fibrin (PRF), the PCL-TCP onlay scaffold seeks to restore frontotemporal contour in children.

Australian-Singaporean regenerative medicine company **Osteopore Limited (ASX: OSX; Osteopore or the Company)** – a global leader in 3D-printed biomimetic and bioresorbable implants – is delighted to announce the launch of a clinical trial in partnership with Queensland Children's Hospital (QCH) to treat temporal hollowing in children following cranial vault remodelling surgery for craniosynostosis.

A single-arm feasibility trial will be conducted in Australia, with the recruitment of up to 5 patients expected by end of 2026. Patient follow-up will continue for 12 months after surgery.

The trial will be led by Dr. Yun Phua, a Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon based at QCH and Mater Hospital. Dr. Phua's subspecialty areas include craniofacial surgery and reconstructive microsurgery.



The study aims to assess the feasibility of using a 3D-printed, patient-specific polycaprolactone-tricalcium phosphate (PCL-TCP) onlay scaffold combined with bone marrow aspirate and platelet-rich fibrin (PRF), to restore the frontotemporal contour in children who have undergone cranial vault remodelling surgery.

Craniosynostosis is a congenital condition in which the bones of a child's skull fuse prematurely, potentially leading to abnormal head shape and neurological complications. Cranial vault remodelling is a common surgical procedure designed to correct this skull contour abnormality.

Temporal hollowing, a noticeable depression in the lateral forehead and temple area, can occur in up to 30-40% of patients following this surgery.

Currently, materials like hydroxyapatite and porous polyethylene are used for augmentation, but these are only considered when the patient is reaching maturity (10-12 years old). This procedure also requires a long bicoronal incision that stretches across the top of the skull from ear to ear.

The PCL-TCP onlay scaffold being assessed during this trial has the potential to support bone formation and growth as the child matures and may be implanted through a smaller incision.

The study has received clearance from the Human Research and Ethics Committee (HREC) at Children's Health Queensland and the Research Governance Office (RGO). The first patient recruited has been successfully recruited.

The study is supported by Maddox's Helping Hand Foundation (MHHF). Established in 2020, MHHF supports the Australian Centre for Complex Integrated Surgical Solutions (ACCISS). The Centre's mission is to help clinicians access new and emerging technologies that improve patient care, including 3D printing, computer-aided design (CAD), and virtual and augmented reality devices.



Commenting on the significance of the QCH study to children suffering from temporal hollowing, CEO Dr Yujing Lim, said:

“We are delighted to partner with Dr. Phua to advance unique regenerative solutions for children suffering from temporal hollowing.

“Children don’t have good options for bone or tissue implants. Most of what is currently available on the market is permanent and does not grow with the patient.

“It is important for us to collaborate closely with clinicians to identify key areas of development to drive impact and patient benefit,” said Dr Lim.

Commenting on the potential of the study to correct temporal hollowing, Dr. Yun Phua said:

“With a scaffold that can remodel with cranial growth, this trial has the potential to enable earlier correction of temporal hollowing in the paediatric age group, instead of waiting until adulthood.

“From what we know, this is the first study specifically looking at augmentation of the temporal region using a regenerative tissue scaffold in paediatric patients.

“We are very appreciative of the Maddox’s Helping Hand Foundation’s support for this clinical trial, and look forward to commencing the study,” said Dr. Phua.

Commenting on the partnership with Dr Phua and Osteopore, MHHF Director Shelley Porter said:

“Our Team at the Maddox's Helping Hand Foundation are extremely pleased to be able to assist Dr Yun Phua in this upcoming clinical trial.

“Our main aim at MHHF is to assist surgeons in accessing new technologies to help provide better patient care and outcomes.

“We look forward to seeing the outcome of this trial, and the positive impact this treatment could have not only on the patient, but their family,” said Ms Porter.

ENDS

This announcement has been authorised for release to the ASX by the Board of Osteopore Limited.



For more information, please contact:

Dr Yujing Lim

Chief Executive Officer

Osteopore Limited

E: lim_yujing@osteopore.com**Isaac Stewart**

Media & Investor Relations

Purple

E: istewart@purple.au**About Osteopore Limited**

Osteopore Ltd. is a global medical technology company founded in Singapore and listed in Australia that commercialises products designed to enable natural bone healing across multiple therapeutic areas. Osteopore's patented technology fabricates specific micro-structured scaffolds for bone regeneration through 3D printing and bioresorbable material.

Osteopore's patent-protected scaffolds are manufactured using a proprietary manufacturing technique with a polymer that naturally dissolves over time to only allow natural and healthy bone tissue, significantly reducing the post-surgery complications commonly associated with permanent bone implants. Our 3D printing technology is unique to Osteopore.

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