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## **Surgeons at Surgical Associates in Wausau Participating in Worldwide Clinical Trial**

(Wausau) Dr. Benjamin Herdrich, a north central Wisconsin vascular surgeon at Surgical Associates, S.C., Wausau, has been selected to participate in a worldwide clinical trial designed to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of an investigational stent system that may reduce or eliminate lesions that typically form following a stent procedure. A stent is a tiny tube that's inserted into a blocked or narrowed artery or vessel to restore the flow of blood. The new stent being tested is the Eluvia Drug-Eluting Vascular Stent System, which deploys a drug to prevent tissue growth that might otherwise block the stented artery. This will be tested against the only commercially available peripheral drug-eluting stent in the US. The new stent being evaluated has had a 96% success rate in Europe one year after being implanted. Despite these promising results internationally, it is still an investigational device in the US.

"We are honored to have been selected to participate in this exciting trial," Herdrich said. "All of us at Surgical Associates and the Aspirus Research Institute are deeply committed to surgical excellence and high patient satisfaction. This provides an opportunity to contribute to the advancement of a very critical surgical procedure that prevents amputations and helps keep people active."

Herdrich will conduct the "Imperial Clinical Trial" through the Aspirus Research Institute over a five year period beginning this spring with assistance from fellow surgeons at Surgical Associates, Wausau, including Dr. Jamie Costa, Dr. Robert Brebrick and Dr. Ralph Fairchild. Potential candidates for the trial stent procedure will be identified by Surgical Associates' surgeons, and if interested, go through a comprehensive qualification process. The procedures will be performed at Aspirus Heart & Vascular Center or the Surgical Associates Vascular Center, one of approximately 40 designated trial sites in the U.S. selected for the Imperial Clinic Trial.

Surgical Associates, S.C. Wausau is a group of 11 independent general and vascular surgeons with multiple specialties serving patients in central and northern Wisconsin and Upper Michigan.

For more information, visit [www.surgicalassociateswausau.com](http://www.surgicalassociateswausau.com)

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