

Vycor Medical introduces innovative medical device

ViewSite Brain Access System allows safer neurosurgery

By EMILY PORTOGHESE

BOHEMIA — Vycor Medical's ViewSite Brain Access System (VBAS) is an innovative technological development that has improved brain surgery and lessened the chance of collateral damage, according to company officials and medical professionals.

The Bohemia-based company on Orville Drive was founded in 2005 with the purpose of creating medical products that allow surgeons a less invasive means to perform critical procedures without damaging surrounding tissue.

Vycor Medical made VBAS, the first significant neurosurgery retraction device redesign in more than 80 years, commercially available in November 2008. Prior to the release of the product, the company was in the design and testing phase for more than two years, noted Kenneth Coviello, chief executive officer of Vycor Medical.

"We are proud we were able to take this (VBAS) from design to production and get financing in these hard times," Coviello said.

Vycor's technology is what he referred to as a next generation brain retractor. Before this, neurosurgeons used a common retractor, also known as a blade retractor, Coviello noted.

The older device looks like a nail file held by clamp, and is used to pull tissue open to create a surgical channel. Common retractors have been known to cause brain retraction injury, Coviello said, because they are made of metal, and the flat plane creates high pressure, which can cause tissue trauma.

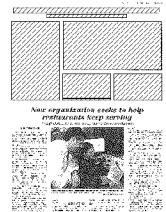
Vycor's technology is made out of clear plastic so surgeon can see all of the surrounding tissue and eliminated those sharp edges by creating an elliptical shape that maximizes surface area.

The clear plastic allows the surgeon to view the surrounding tissue all the way through the brain to make sure there is no discoloration of tissue, which, Coviello noted, is an indication of trauma or that there is too much pressure and is cutting off circulation.

Dr. Michael Weaver, assistant professor of Neurosurgery at Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, applauds this next-generation retraction device, which he has used for nearly two years.

Dr. Weaver noted that Vycor's product is built on New York University surgeon Dr. Patrick Kelly's pioneering efforts in this field. "Vycor has done a good job in terms of updating the retraction device technologically," he said.

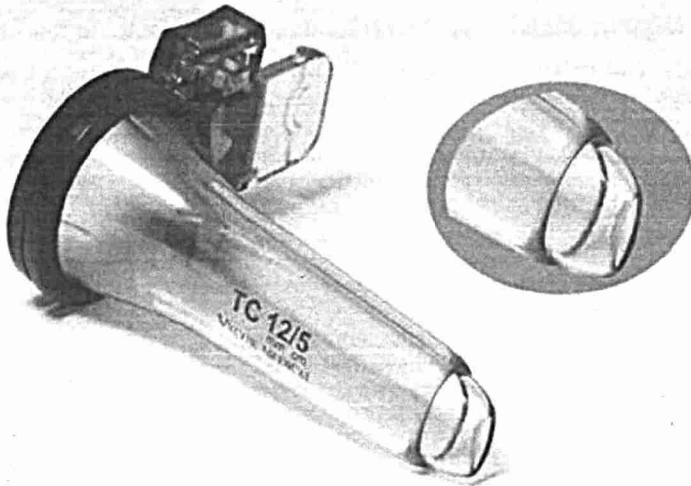
This product is a dream come true for Dr. Weaver, who noted he has been clamoring with the industry for years to have someone attempt to create something like Vycor has.



“I’m happy to see it,” Dr Weaver said. “It’s embraced by neurosurgery communities and I’ve had great success with it. It’s a great product.”

Since Vycor’s technology has no real point of pressure—the force is distributed—it reduces the amount of traction to the brain and creates a decent working corridor to remove deep-seated tumors so a surgeon can “find ways to the lesion that spare relatively eloquent areas of brain,” Dr. Weaver said.

Eventually, Vycor would like to introduce the VBAS in additional shapes and sizes in order to address more procedures. At this time, Vycor has a spinal access product that is under development and still must go through the design and testing stages, Coviello noted. ■



Bohemia-based Vycor Medical’s innovative product for neurosurgery, ViewSite Brain Access System (VBAS), is the first significant neurosurgery retraction device redesign in more than 80 years. At right: Company CEO Kenneth Coviello. Photos courtesy of Kenneth Coviello and Vycor Medical