

MEDIA STATEMENT

Information about using ON-Q PainBuster

We stand firmly behind the safety and efficacy of ON-Q® PainBuster®, which relieves pain significantly better than narcotics following surgery. ON-Q has been awarded numerous FDA 510(k) clearances. Our devices have been used successfully by physicians for over 10 years to improve post-surgical recovery for more than 2 million patients in the United States alone. Based on data from over 90 clinical studies and countless anecdotal reports, ON-Q is proven to get patients out of the hospital sooner and back to normal faster while significantly reducing their need for narcotics to treat post-surgical pain.

To date, the cause of chondrolysis has not been established. A recent *New York Times* article, entitled “Studies Link Rare Ailment in Cartilage to Pain Pumps” states that “even researchers who think pain pumps are a cause of chondrolysis say more proof is needed.” In this article, Constance Chu, MD, an orthopedic surgeon and associate professor at the University of Pittsburgh who studies cartilage regeneration is quoted as saying, “There’s no study that I’m aware of that shows a direct cause.” Nevertheless, until further studies clarify the situation, ON-Q’s directions for use (DFU) clearly states that to avoid complications, one should avoid placing the [pain pump] catheter in joint spaces.

Obviously, we are very disappointed in the jury’s verdict in the Beale case and will appeal this result. Beyond this, we cannot comment further, as we regard this as a pending legal matter. It is the policy of Kimberly-Clark not to comment on pending litigation.