The Evolution® Biliary uncovered metal stent
A report from Portugal’s Hospital da Luz

Last February at the Hospital da Luz, a private institution located in Lisbon, a lecture on ERCP and biliary stent deployment was presented to 15 Portuguese GI physicians from across the country.

Dr. David Serra, Coordinator of the Gastroenterology Department, made an excellent presentation regarding his experience and follow up of the first 30 cases he performed using the new Evolution Biliary uncovered stent. The presentation made it clear that he had obtained great results (See Dr. Serra’s report below and three of those cases on the next page). The lecture was followed by a hands-on learning program, which was presented by nurses from the Hospital da Luz and Cook Medical sales representatives. During a brainstorming session after the lecture, different points of view were exchanged about procedural cases, ERCP and biliary stent placement and other topics. That session was outstanding and, as far as we could observe, it was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. There was great camaraderie among the attendees. Dr. David Serra and all the GI doctors and nurses are fully committed to seeking new perspectives to improve their performance, so the invitation to try the new Evolution Biliary stents was very welcomed by them. It was a pleasure putting this program together for the Hospital da Luz. After the meeting, we made an agreement with Dr. David Serra to extend this lecture and hands-on training program not only to doctors, but also to nurses. As a result, a new meeting took place in April, this time for selected nurses from across Portugal.

Clinical experience with a new Cook biliary metal stent

Expandable metal biliary stents are currently used to treat biliary tract obstruction. Malignant biliary obstruction can be caused by direct tumor infiltration, extrinsic compression, adjacent inflammation, desmoplastic reaction from tumors or, more commonly, a combination of more than one of the aforementioned factors. Pancreatic cancer is the most common cause of malignant biliary obstruction and jaundice is the most common symptom in the course of the disease.

Since June 2012, we at Hospital da Luz began using in the new Cook Evolution Biliary uncovered stent in our department. In the first eight months, we used this new device in 30 patients: 17 with pancreatic cancer, eight with cholangiocarcinoma, two with gall bladder carcinoma, and two with hepatic metastasis from colon cancer.

All patients were presented to us with obstructive jaundice. Our preliminary results with the new stent were excellent. All stents were successfully inserted endoscopically with immediate biliary drainage.

In our preliminary evaluation, we consider the Evolution Biliary uncovered stent very friendly to use, thanks to the new, controlled release delivery system. The accuracy in delivering the stent is very high with less degree of foreshortening. We also managed to reduce the radiation exposure, using only the endoscopy view in stent delivery.

On the next page are a few of our Evolution Biliary uncovered stent cases.