

Brexit strongly negative for medtech industry, say Verdict readers

The UK leaving the European Union today will be a strongly negative development for the medtech industry, according to a poll of Verdict Medical Devices readers.

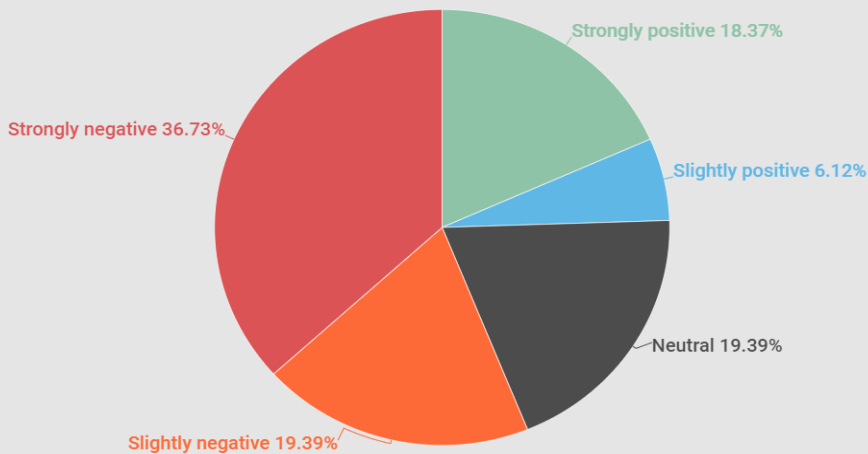
In a survey of almost 200 visitors to our site, nearly 37% of respondents said that Brexit would be strongly negative for the industry, while 19% said it would be slightly negative.

Conversely, 18% of respondents said the move would be strongly positive for the industry, while 6% described it as slightly positive. A further 19% of people thought it would have a neutral impact on the industry.

The same poll run on our sister site, Pharmaceutical Technology, yielded almost identical results, with 35% of people saying Brexit would be strongly negative for the pharmaceutical industry and 19% saying it would be only slightly negative. Likewise, 20% described Brexit as strongly positive for the industry and 6% felt it would be only slightly positive, with the remaining 19% responding neutrally.

A survey of Verdict Medical Devices readers conducted in the run-up to the December 2019 general election indicated that a slim majority of our readers felt a win for the Conservatives, the most explicitly pro-Brexit leading party, would be best for the industry.

The UK leaves the European Union on 31 January. Do you think this will be a positive or a negative for the medical devices industry?



Survey data collected on 31/01/20. Total respondents: 196

Made with 

Win-win or lose-lose

It might not all be doom and gloom. Despite the disruption caused by Brexit, the UK's life sciences sector enjoyed one of its most fruitful years in 2019, with British biotech raising £1.2bn in financing.

UK Secretary of State for Health and Social Care Matt Hancock has said that the intention is to maintain mutual recognition of products produced in the UK and EU. The European Parliament has also acknowledged how much the EU has to lose if the sector is disrupted and has called for targeted actions to ensure a continuing supply of drugs and medical devices. In other words, it's mutually beneficial for both parties to keep everything running smoothly.



By Bicakcilar Corporate Marketing – No37 February 2020

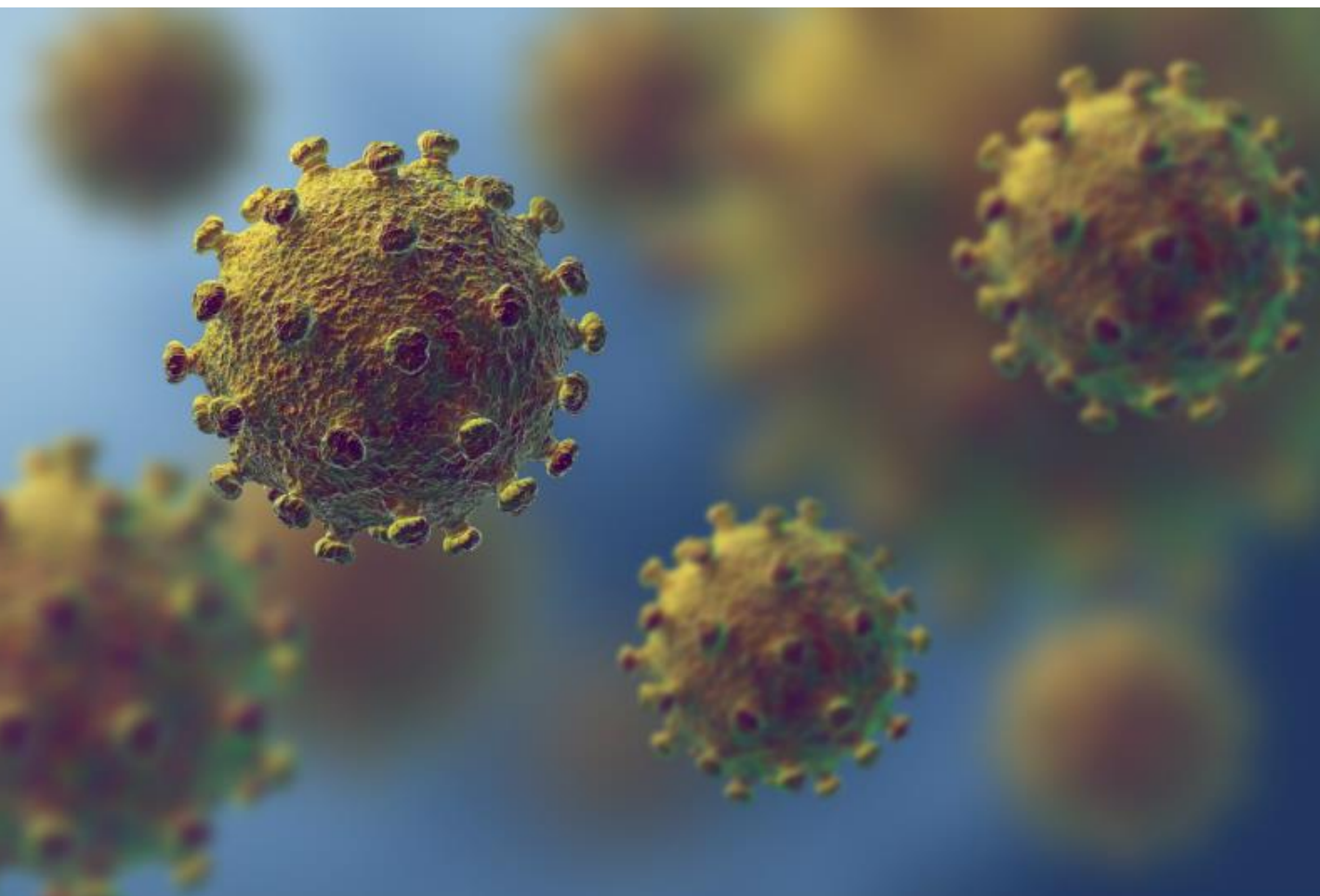
Wuhan coronavirus case confirmed in Canada By GlobalData Healthcare

Canadian health officials in British Columbia have confirmed a case of Wuhan coronavirus.

This confirmed case follows two other confirmed cases in Toronto, Ontario. There are over 30 cases of Wuhan coronavirus beyond Asia's borders; it has spread to Canada, US, France, Germany, Australia, and Singapore. Across Asia, the coronavirus has spread to over 7,700 people and has resulted in 170 deaths.

The original infection is believed to have been transmitted from wild bats to humans, but human to human transmission has now been confirmed. The Wuhan coronavirus appears to be less fatal than former viral outbreaks, such as SARS and MERS, but is more contagious, according to France's health minister. Scientists across the globe estimate that each affected individual will infect between two to five other individuals on average.

Given the ability of the virus to transmit between humans, special containment attention needs to be implemented in healthcare settings across the world to prevent the spread of the virus to vulnerable populations. China has taken aggressive action to stem the spread of the virus and has quarantined Wuhan from the world and has sanctioned the rapid construction of multiple care facilities in order to treat the infected. GlobalData expects the rising number of infected cases around the globe to impose heavy pressures on global healthcare infrastructure while hospitals push to implement proper quarantine controls in order to prevent further disastrous outbreaks.



7D Surgical receives approvals for Cranial Biopsy Kit 4 February 2020

Canada-based 7D Surgical has secured 510(k) clearance from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), as well as the Health Canada medical device license (MDL) for its Cranial Biopsy Kit.

Cranial Biopsy Kit enables neurosurgeons to employ image guidance to precisely target brain lesions during needle biopsy procedures. The Toronto-based firm has announced the commercial launch of the Universal Tracking Kit to support a series of surgical instruments. Universal Tracking Kit can be utilised by spine surgeons to track and visualise any rigid surgical instrument on the MvIGS system, including third-party vendor taps and screwdrivers.

7D Surgical CEO Beau Standish said: “7D Surgical has successfully transitioned from a start-up organisation to a growth company, having launched more than 33 MvIGS programs since our full commercial release a little over a year ago. “We are very proud of our team for commercialising these latest products in the spine and cranial markets. “2020 will be another break out year for our Machine-Vision innovations and continued North American and international expansion.”

The FDA 510(k)-cleared and Health Canada approved MvIGS system is for use in surgical workflows during spine and cranial surgeries. Featuring camera-based technology and machine vision algorithms, MvIGS system addresses issues associated with legacy surgical navigational platforms.

Visible light is used by the MvIGS system, helping to avoid patient and staff exposure to intraoperative radiation seen in older technologies. 7D Surgical sales and marketing vice-president Brian Stuart said: “We have completed more than 1,500 clinical cases with the 7D Surgical System and the feedback from our surgeon users has been tremendous.

“I am excited to offer these new technologies to our customer base which expand the functionality of the MvIGS system while maintaining our clear advantages in speed and reduced radiation exposure to operating room staff and patients.”



These medical device companies provide the most research payments JANUARY 31, 2020

The world's largest medical device companies are spending tens of millions of dollars a year on research payments to doctors and teaching hospitals — but the payments only make up a tiny fraction of their budgets.

That was a big takeaway from an analysis of Medical Design & Outsourcing's annual Big 100 and the most recent data available on CMS Open Payments.

The world's 20 biggest publicly-traded medtech companies made \$159.9 million in research payments to doctors and teaching hospitals in 2018, spending an average of 0.1% of their annual revenue. On average, each company doled out 1.2% of its research and development spending to doctors and teaching hospitals in 2018.

Medtronic topped the list with \$64 million in research payments to doctors and teaching hospitals. Those payments were 2.7% of its R&D spending and 0.2% of its annual revenue in 2019.

Research payments to doctors and teaching hospitals go toward research studies of certain devices from the company. Some studies are investigator-sponsored and evaluate the safety and efficacy of devices such as stents, leads, imaging devices and more.

Here is a breakdown of how the top 5 companies with the most payments divvied up their research payments between doctors and teaching hospitals — and what the top payments from each company went toward.



No.1 \$64 million in research payments to doctors and teaching hospitals



No.2 \$23.2 million in research payments to doctors and teaching hospitals



No. 3 \$19.4 million in research payments to doctors and teaching hospitals



No. 4 \$10.9 million in research payments to doctors and teaching hospitals



No. 5 \$10.5 million in research payments to doctors and teaching hospitals



Medtronic seeks to boost surgical robotics play with Digital Surgery acquisition

FEBRUARY 13, 2020 BY MASSDEVICE

Medtronic (NYSE:MDT) announced today that it has acquired Digital Surgery (London), a privately-held pioneer in surgical artificial intelligence, data and analytics, and digital education and training. Financial terms of the deal were not disclosed.

Medtronic said the purchase will strengthen its robot-assisted surgical platform and its broader portfolio. The medical device giant is making a big play to compete against robotic surgery's dominant player — Intuitive Surgical (NASDAQ:ISRG) and its da Vinci SP. Medtronic last year unveiled its much-awaited Hugo RAS system.

Digital Surgery officials say they want to digitize surgical protocols using cutting-edge computing and to support the delivery of consistent, data-driven, and evidence-based surgical care. Its products include Touch Surgery, an award-winning interactive training platform downloaded more than 2 million times, and GoSurgery, an operating room efficiency platform.



Digital Surgery will join Surgical Robotics business, a part of the Medtronic's Minimally Invasive Therapies Group.

The acquisition is expected to strengthen Medtronic's portfolio and its robotic-assisted surgery platform.

Medtronic Surgical Robotics business vice president and general manager Megan Rosengarten said: "Capabilities and solutions in the data and analytics space play a critical role in our continued focus on advancing minimally invasive surgery, from education and training to clinical decision support, to reducing cost and unwarranted variability.

"We are thrilled to bring the Digital Surgery team and their expertise into Medtronic, not only due to the strategic fit from a technology perspective but due to the shared belief that patients around the world deserve access to quality surgical care.

"By pairing digital solutions with robotic platforms and instrumentation, we can have a big impact on expanding patient access."

Digital Surgery will continue to be headquartered in London and its existing executive team, including the two surgeon co-founders, Dr Jean Nehme and Dr Andre Chow, will remain.



Researchers use AI to measure blood flow and predict cardiovascular risk

Artificial intelligence (AI) has been used for the first time to instantly and accurately measure blood flow and thus predict chances of death, heart attack and stroke.

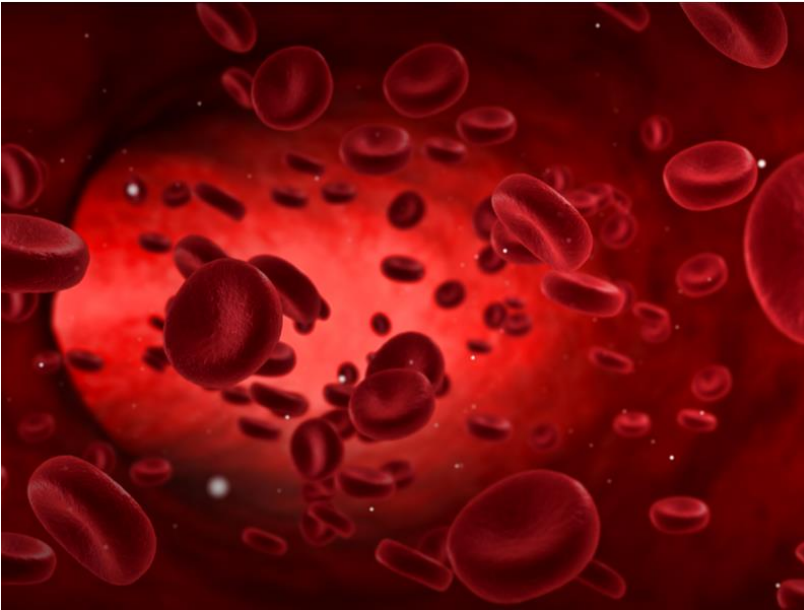
In a large study, led by University College London (UCL) and Barts Health NHS Trust and funded by the British Heart Foundation, researchers took routine cardiovascular magnetic resonance (CMR) scans from 1,000 patients and used AI to analyse the images.

The AI allowed the researchers to precisely and instantaneously quantify the blood flow to the heart muscle and deliver the measurements to the medical teams treating the patients.

Comparing the AI-generated blood flow results with the health outcomes of each patient allowed the team to establish that the patients with reduced blood flow were more likely to have adverse health outcomes. These included death, heart attack, stroke and heart failure.

The AI was able to predict which patients would die or suffer adverse events better than a doctor would be able to do alone, the team said.

UCL professor of cardiology James Moon said: "Artificial intelligence is moving out of the computer labs and into the real world of healthcare, carrying out some tasks better than doctors could do alone. We have tried to measure blood flow manually before, but it is tedious and time-consuming, taking doctors away from where they are needed most, with their patients."



Coronavirus: China boosts medical supplies imports, cuts tariffs

The Ministry of Commerce of China has issued a notification on the expansion of imports of medical supplies and daily necessities to fight the ongoing coronavirus outbreak in the country.

As of the end of 5 February, health officials have confirmed 28,275 cases worldwide, including 28,049 confirmed cases in China. According to the National Health Commission (NHC), 24,702 people are suspected to have been infected in mainland China.

To ensure domestic supply, local commerce departments have been advised to expand imports to epidemic prevention and control. The government is looking to boost imports of medical supplies and raw materials for production.

The Ministry has provided details regarding 51 medical suppliers or supply channels in 14 countries and regions to local commerce departments.

China cuts tariffs on US goods

China has decided to reduce tariffs on US goods worth approximately \$75bn from 14 February. The country is decreasing the original 10% tariff, applied in 2019, to 5% on some goods. On some other goods, the rate will be adjusted to 2.5%.