CERTAS Programmable Valve For Hydrocephalus

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Codman & Shurtleff, Inc. (Codman), recently launch their CODMAN® CERTAS Programmable Valve, a shunt used in the treatment of congenital or acquired hydrocephalus, an excess accumulation of cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) in the brain. It represents the latest offering in the company's portfolio of products for the treatment of hydrocephalus, and provides surgeons with another choice when determining the appropriate course of treatment. Features include eight settings to control the rate of drainage of CSF from the brain to the abdomen, with the eighth setting comparable to the valve being "off." The new device, which is resistant to unintended changes to settings during an MRI, will be offered alongside the CODMAN® HAKIM® Programmable Valve*, a shunt that offers 18 settings. The CODMAN®CERTAS Programmable Valve received 510(k) clearance from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in late October, but potential complications of shunt surgery may include infection of the surgical wound or of the CSF (meningitis), bleeding into the brain or ventricles, or a seizure. A shunt infection may be indicated by fever, redness or swelling along the shunt track.