

PRESS RELEASE

CLEVELAND, OHIO
OCTOBER ____, 2001

Federal District Court preliminarily approves settlement of a class action lawsuit involving Sulzer hip implants and knee implants.

On _____, 2001, the Honorable Kathleen M. O'Malley, United States District Court Judge for the Northern District of Ohio, issued an Order granting preliminary approval of a proposed settlement agreement in a product liability class action lawsuit relating to certain Inter-Op™ Acetabular Shell hip implants and Natural Knee® Tibial Baseplate knee implants, both of which were manufactured by Sulzer Orthopedics, Inc.

The case concerns Sulzer Orthopedics, Inc.'s announcement of a voluntary recall of certain Inter-Op™ Acetabular Shells used in total hip prostheses, and Sulzer Orthopedics, Inc.'s Special Notification to Physicians regarding certain Natural Knee® Tibial Baseplates used in total knee prostheses. Over 17,500 affected Inter-Op™ Acetabular Shells have been implanted, and over 1,300 affected Natural Knee® Tibial Baseplates have been implanted. The proposed settlement would resolve all claims of any person who received an affected implant, unless that person affirmatively opts out.

A hearing on the fairness of the settlement agreement is scheduled for March 12, 2002, beginning at 10:00 a.m., in the U.S. Courthouse, 201 Superior Ave., Cleveland, Ohio.

In you need any additional information, or want to obtain a copy of the Notice of Settlement being sent to Class Members, please visit the website www.sulzerimplantsettlement.com.

You can also contact Plaintiffs' Class Counsel at this address:

Plaintiffs' Liaison Counsel
In Re Inter-Op Hip Prosthesis Liability Litigation
1600 Midland Building
101 Prospect Avenue, W.
Cleveland, OH 44115