**SEM Scanner™ Detects Bedsores Sooner than Skin Evaluation**

A wireless handheld scanner detected bedsores developing under the skin earlier than visual inspection of the skin surface, giving clinicians an alert that enables them to intervene early and reverse damage before the sores break through the skin and turn potentially deadly. The pivotal study involved 182 patients at risk for bedsores at 12 hospitals, nursing homes, and long-term rehabilitation centers in the United States and United Kingdom.

Researchers conducting daily visual skin assessments and scans for up to 20 days found that the SEM Scanner™ detects pressure damage to skin earlier than visual skin evaluation by nurses. The new research builds on earlier evidence from 1,200 patients participating in a Bruin Biometrics-sponsored program incorporating the SEM Scanner into existing hospital bedsore prevention protocols. Seven hospitals in the United Kingdom and Canada eliminated bedsores and two achieved reductions of approximately 90% as a result of the program.

**Levetiracetam Normalizes Abnormalities in Brain Activity in Patients With Mild Alzheimer’s Disease**

In a new study in the Journal of Alzheimer’s Disease, clinician-scientists tested an anti-epileptic drug for its potential impact on the brain activity of patients with mild Alzheimer’s disease.

The small group of patients visited researchers three times. At each visit, patients were given a baseline electroencephalogram (EEG) to measure electrical activity in the brain. They were then given injections containing either inactive placebo or the anti-seizure drug levetiracetam at a low (2.5 mg/kg) or high (7.5 mg/kg) dose. Neither patients nor medical professionals knew which injections patients were receiving, but each patient eventually received one of each type in a random order.

After receiving the injection, patients underwent another EEG followed by magnetic resonance imaging. Finally, they took a standardized cognitive test designed to measure memory, executive functioning, naming, visuospatial ability, and semantic function.

Overall, higher doses of the anti-seizure drug appeared to normalize abnormalities seen in patients’ EEG profiles (i.e., there were overall increases in brain wave frequencies that had been abnormally low in patients with Alzheimer’s disease prior to receiving the higher dose of levetiracetam, and, likewise, there were decreases in those that had been abnormally high).