Chettinad Hospitals with Vaso-Meditech organized an Experts Meet in Chennai to design a National Study on arterial stiffness and to introduce its Robotic Surgery program.

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Chettinad Hospitals and **Vaso-Meditech Pvt Ltd** conducted an Experts meet in Chennai, on leading edge diagnostics and therapeutics at **Park Sheraton on 8th Feb 2008**. Experts in the field of cardiology and cardiac surgery attended the meeting. A National multi centric survey to assess values for arterial stiffness in normal population and in patient with cardio vascular risk factors like diabetes and hypertension etc is planned by the Hospital.

Dr.Pradeep Nayar, Chief Cardiologist of Chettinad Hospital said that the data obtain will go a long way in helping physicians to optimize drug therapy. It will also help in prevention of cardiac events when used to detect early damage to arteries in patients with cardiac risk factors. This will help patients to adopt life style modifications early, to prevent further damage to their heart and blood vessels.

Dr.A.Ramachandran, leading diabetologist of Chennai spoke about the alarming trend of increasing prevalence of Diabetes in India. By 2025 Indian will have 69.9 Million Diabetic patients.

Dr.MUR Naidu, Dean & Head of the department of Clinical Pharmacology Nizam Institute of Medical Science, Hyderabad stressed "measuring arterial stiffness is gaining importance as one of the major predictor of cardiovascular mortality and morbidity" and pointed out pulse wave velocity and pulse wave analysis are two simple non-invasive technology for the measurement of arterial damage occurred due to traditional risk factors.

Dr.Dhanapal, Dean, Kilpauk Medical College, **Dr.Suresh Krishnamoorthy**, Director, Kuppam Medical College, Andhra Pradesh, were present in the meeting and expressed their keen interest in the study.

Vice Chancellor **Prof Dr.K.Meer Mustafa Hussain** addressed the gathering and praised the doctors for endeavoring clinical research in arterial stiffness and stressed "measuring arterial stiffness in preventive health check will help physicians to identify risk much earlier than before".

The meeting was also attended by **Dr.Carmel Mc Eniery**, **Phd.**, of Cambridge University, UK, who is the study advisor for the project and **Tony Doherty** International Clinical manager **AtCor Medical**.

Dr.S.Ramasamy Director of **Vaso-Meditech Pvt Ltd** stated that Vaso-Meditech Pvt Ltd will join hands with Cambridge University and leading hospital across India to design a National study to collect data on arterial stiffness and Central blood pressure using **AtCor medical SphygmoCor** device.

Dr.Ravi Kumar, Director, Cardio Thoracic Unit of Chettinad Hospitals, discussed the role of robotic surgery in current cardiac surgery practice. Chettinad Hospitals is the first centre in Tamilnadu and fourth in India to have this facility. **Dr.Naresh Kumar**, Director, Harvey Hospital and **Dr. Moorthy**, Chief Pediatric Cardiac Surgeon, Institute of Child Health, Egmore attended at the meeting.