

Eastman's Ecdel™ elastomer enhances medical tubing technology

A fifty-year leader in tubing extrusion technology for the medical and industrial markets, Natvar prides itself in responsiveness and constantly works with customers to improve its ability to react to the ever-changing medical market. Natvar believes that the team concept of manufacturing is essential for continued success for them and their customers. That's why Natvar partnered with Eastman to provide medical plastics expertise and with Gentex for capabilities in colorless laser welding technologies to produce its Clearweld® additive technology.

Effectively bringing it all together

Eastman's medical team successfully applied its medical plastics expertise and guided the selection of its Ecdel™ elastomer as the outer layer of Natvar's Sure Bond™ tubing used for the delivery of unstable medications. Gentex's Clearweld® additive technology together with Eastman's Ecdel™ enables the medical tubing to be laser welded to other medical parts without compromising product performance.

"Eastman's long-term relationship with Natvar proved pivotal to the Clearweld® project," says John Pullo, Gentex's VP and GM of Performance Materials. "Eastman's expert medical team educated and advised us on the best material choice that worked with our proprietary technology."

Successfully taking it to the next level

Eastman was key in assisting Natvar and Gentex in the selection of its Ecdel™ elastomer as the outer layer of Natvar's 252 tri-layer tubing. The elastomer is the material critical in ensuring that the Sure Bond layer is clear, has optimal joint strength, and excellent product integrity.

"Our goal was to create tubing products that provided our customers with a solution to their bonding issues, effectively meeting the needs of a wide range of medical markets," says Bob Donohue, Divisional Director of Technologies for Natvar.

"Eastman's Ecdel™ medical plastics solution and Gentex's proprietary technology guarantees our customers are getting the best-performing medical tubing on the market," states Donohue.

Consistently exceeding customer expectations

The new Sure Bond™ tubing withstands pressures better and helps avoid catastrophic bond failure during intense surgical procedures. The medical tubing is a more robust, effective product that can be used for a variety of patient-care products. Natvar has an extensive list of customers who have entered the development and validation stage of the company's new Sure Bond™ technology.



Clearweld® laser weld

Visit www.eastman.com/medical today or call 1-800-EASTMAN (1-800-327-8626) for more information on Ecdel™ elastomer and other materials in Eastman's portfolio of products for the medical industry.

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It is the responsibility of the medical device manufacturer ("Manufacturer") to determine the suitability of all component parts and raw materials, including any Eastman™ product, used in its final product in order to ensure safety and compliance with requirements of the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) or other international regulatory agencies.

Eastman™ products have not been designed for nor are they promoted for end uses that would be categorized either by the United States FDA or by the International Standards Organization (ISO) as implant devices. Eastman™ products are not intended for use in the following applications: (1) in any bodily implant applications for greater than 30 days, based on FDA-Modified ISO-10993, Part 1, "Biological Evaluation of Medical Devices" tests (including any cosmetic, reconstructive, or reproductive implant applications); (2) in any cardiac prosthetic device application, regardless of the length of time involved, including, without limitation, pacemaker leads and devices, artificial hearts, heart valves, intra-aortic balloons and control systems, and ventricular bypass assisted devices; or (3) as any critical component in any medical device that supports or sustains human life.

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