

# Hemex Health

## NEWS / FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Newborn screening test for sickle cell disease now supported by Gazelle 8-minute, point-of-care diagnostic**

#### ***First worldwide “over-the-air” software enhancement made to Gazelle customer installations***

(June 1, 2021 – Portland, Ore., and Mumbai) Hemex Health announced the launch of the Company’s first virtual upgrade to its Gazelle platform and Sickle Cell Disease test today that expands the patient age range from 6 weeks and older to all ages, including newborns. The upgrade, free to those with the Gazelle device, also includes printing enhancements and a variety of ease-of-use features.

Sickle cell disease (SCD) is one of the most common and severe of all inherited hematological disorders, causing substantial morbidity and mortality worldwide. According to the Sickle Cell Disease Foundation, SCD is responsible for between 5% and 16% of all infant deaths in sub-Saharan Africa.

“Five hundred children die every day from SCD for lack of testing,” said Dr. Stephen Obaro, Professor of Pediatrics at University of Nebraska, Medical Center and Director of IFAIN (International Foundation Against Infectious Disease in Nigeria). “With Gazelle’s newborn screening test, we anticipate more opportunities to diagnose babies and to educate their families about simple treatment regimens such as a pneumonia vaccine, daily penicillin, and nutritional support. In high prevalence areas, like Nigeria, Gazelle could help save the life of one child for every hundred tests.”

“The levels of hemoglobin that need to be measured in newborns to detect SCD are very low. Hemex improvements enable the Gazelle test to identify these low levels for sickle cell disease and trait, Barts, and other important hemoglobinopathies at birth,” continued Dr. Obaro.

“Gazelle takes a sophisticated, high-end test, electrophoresis, and makes it available to everyone on an affordable, point-of-care platform,” said Patti White, CEO of Hemex. “Gazelle finds more abnormalities than other point-of-care tests. Additionally, because Gazelle can quantify the percentages of hemoglobin types in the blood, we are testing its benefits for treatment monitoring.”

#### **First of many enhancements**

Hemex also announced that Gazelles connected to Wi-Fi will receive an automatic notification of the update through the Cloud or that customers could receive the update via USB drive from their distributor.

**[MORE]**

“We designed Gazelle with the ability to add new functionality through software upgrades,” said Peter Galen, Hemex’s Chief Innovation Officer. “In addition to the newborn test, this upgrade allows users to send patient reports to a Wi-Fi connected printer or to a printer connected to a Wi-Fi accessible computer. In the future we plan to add even more tests and features to Gazelles in the field.”

### **Expanding list of countries**

Gazelle Hb Variant is sold in 4 states in India, Haiti, as well as several countries in Africa, including Ghana, Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Cameroon. The product recently received regulatory approval in Nigeria and a distributor has been signed for the Middle East and North America (MENA) countries.

### **About Gazelle**

Gazelle is a compact, rugged, battery-operated diagnostic device. It can be used inexpensively, with no cold chain requirements by entry level healthcare workers in areas with limited access, resources or electricity. Patient information and results are captured digitally for storage, printing, or later transmission. Gazelle is approved for detecting malaria and sickle cell disease in a growing list of countries, and integrates miniaturized versions of trusted technologies, innovative optics, and artificial intelligence. This versatile approach allows the company to continually add diseases to its menu of tests and expand to new users. Gazelle is an accurate and rapid digital platform that can work just about anywhere in the world. With its affordable, compact, and rugged design, and all-day battery power, it delivers powerful, rapid diagnostics to more places without the need for a cold chain-- from remote, low-resource settings, to drive through testing, border crossings, or nursing homes.

### **About Hemex Health**

Hemex Health breaks traditional barriers with its innovative diagnostic system that expands the potential of diagnostics for multiple diseases, making accurate tests accessible to new locations and new populations.

Hemex Health designs diagnostic technologies for the real world by listening to the needs of healthcare providers including those in some of the most remote and challenging settings. The Gazelle technology was developed in collaboration with Case Western Reserve University. Hemex Health is located in Portland, Oregon, USA. HemexDx, a subsidiary of Hemex Health, is located in Mumbai, India. More information can be found by going to [www.hemexhealth.com](http://www.hemexhealth.com).

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