

# Interview with Martin Pompach MD, PhD working in Pardubice Hospital, Czech Republic; one of the authors of the unique C-NAIL

*How do you rate the award and what does it mean to you?*

It is a prestigious award of the German society of accident surgery and is a joint Award of doctors Michael H. Amlang, Hans Zwipp, Martin Pompach and Stefan Rammelt. It is also a common merit of the company MEDIN, which produced the implant and launched it on the market. I appreciate the award very much and I also appreciate the cooperation with the MEDIN company. I would also like to thank the Pardubice Hospital, which enabled me to participate in the project.

*Maybe just a little bit of the history of C-NAIL. How did the idea of developing the C-NAIL product come about?*

The first idea came about in 2006 and the main reason was dissatisfaction with the use of screws and plates in calcaneus surgery. Wound healing has often been complicated. This is how the idea of mitigating the complications with a miniinvasive technique was born – to choose a new surgical approach in combination with a new implant that is introduced intramedullary and has greater stability than the plate. And that was the C-NAIL calcaneal nail.

*Initial responses?*

The initial responses were tentative. The C-NAIL had a lot of supporters and opponents at the beginning, but the results were very positive. Patients were very satisfied after surgery. They were returning back to normal life and to sport. The risk of infection is actually considerably lower than for plates. Now it can be seen that this was a step in the right direction.

*Do you have positive feedback from doctors who initially had a negative attitude to C-NAIL?*

I see it a lot in Germany, German doctors are very conservative and have been waiting for results from impact journals. After the positive results were published, doors started gradually opening to us. Another positive influence on the attitude of doctors was the distribution of C-NAIL by the German



There is another calcaneal nail of German-French production on the market. It looks different and has a different principle of fixation in the calcaneus. It did not exhibit as good properties in the tests as the C-NAIL.

*Can it be said then that C-NAIL is a unique implant of its sort in the world?*

You can say that, yes!

*Now you have behind you one stage of your 'working' life, culminating in a prestigious award. What are you planning in the future? Some new type of implant?*

I have something in mind but it's not the right time to talk about it yet (laughs). Now we are working on the second generation of C-NAIL and we are conducting clinical trials in cooperation with the České Budějovice Hospital headed by MUDr. Marek PemeI, for which I would like to extend my thanks. Then I hope that everything goes well and the new generation will be soon on the market!

*Thank you very much for the interview and wish you many work achievements!*

*It is known that competition never sleeps. Have you recorded a similar product on the market?*

