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## **Retriever Medical's ClotHound™ System for Removing Acute, Sub-acute and Wall-Adherent Clots and their BLOOD GENIE are Showing Promise of Enhancing Patient Outcomes and Reducing Hospital Stays**



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**Interview conducted by:  
Lynn Fosse, Senior Editor  
CEOCFO Magazine**

**CEOCFO: Mr. Bobo, would you give us a background on Retriever Medical?**

Mr. Bobo: Retriever Medical is an early-stage medical device company focused on developing a thrombectomy device to treat pulmonary embolism (PE) and deep vein thrombosis (DVT), commonly known as clots in the lungs and legs. Pulmonary embolism is the third leading cause of death, making it a critical health issue. The incidence of clots in both the lungs and legs has risen in recent years, and the market for these procedures has seen growth in both procedure volume and strategic interest.

**CEOCFO: Where does Retriever Medical come into play?**

Mr. Bobo: Retriever Medical offers a single-device solution designed for both pulmonary embolism and deep vein thrombosis procedures, addressing the explosive growth in this market. Our device is unique because it can remove the full spectrum of clots—acute, sub-acute, and chronic wall-adherent thrombus—unlike other systems. Physicians are agnostic about the clot type when entering a procedure; their goal is to remove the clot and restore blood flow, regardless of its nature. Our device's feature set provides a single-tool solution, enabling physicians to address any clot they encounter efficiently.

**CEOCFO: What are physicians using today?**

Mr. Bobo: Most physicians currently treat clots in the lungs and legs with tissue plasminogen activator (tPA) or thrombolytic therapy. For DVT, this approach allows doctors to assess the clot without immediate intervention, often requiring a hospital stay of three to four days to monitor the thrombus's response. While thrombolytics are effective for

acute clots, they are not effective for sub-acute or chronic thrombus given the cross linked nature of these clots. If tPA is ineffective, physicians may turn to mechanical thrombectomy, using aspiration catheters or other devices to remove the clot via suction or mechanical means.

Mechanical thrombectomy is gaining popularity because it can be completed in a single session, often in an hour or less, compared to the multi-day tPA process. More advanced practitioners may opt for aspiration catheters first, depending on their expertise and the clot's characteristics.

**CEO CFO: Would you tell us about your EU patent?**

Mr. Bobo: Retriever Medical holds 16 issued patents with 176 claims, and our most recent EU patent covers the mechanical aspects of our device. It features two spheres—a distal and a proximal sphere—both uniaxial and independently controlled. Physicians can actively expand and contract these spheres up to 16 millimeters in diameter using a slider, enabling them to engage and remove chronic, wall-adherent clots. The spheres can sandwich the clot, break it down, and pull it into the aspiration catheter without relying solely on suction. The distal sphere provides wall engagement and embolic protection while the proximal sphere can move independently by 5 centimeters, allowing precise clot entrainment and removal. This design offers a novel approach to thrombectomy.

**"Our dual-sphere system sets us apart: the distal sphere protects against clot embolization, while the proximal sphere breaks down and removes the clot, all within a single pass exchange for full clot removal." Ben Bobo**

**CEO CFO: Where do you stand on having something that people want and need, and then getting it into their hands?**

Mr. Bobo: I often say Retriever Medical is ahead of its time. Our device's ability to remove the full spectrum of clots is novel because most developers design thrombectomy devices to avoid contact with the vessel's endothelial lining, focusing only on acute or sub-acute clots. This leaves chronic clots unaddressed. In 2023 and 2024, Inari Medical's CLOUT and FLASH studies highlighted these gaps, showing their devices left behind ~18% of chronic thrombus in DVT cases and ~70% in PE cases.

In contrast, our studies with the ClotHound device demonstrated a 99% removal rate of chronic, fibrotic clot material adhered to vessel walls, compared to Inari's FlowTriever, which removed only 25% in similar tests. Importantly, we achieved this without needing to exchange devices during the procedure. Our porcine model studies further confirmed safety, showing no damage to the endothelial lining even when spheres were over-expanded to 200% of the vessel diameter. These results validate our device's superior efficacy and safety.

**CEO CFO: Where are you now?**

Mr. Bobo: We are raising a \$12 million Series A to complete development of our ClotHound system and BLOOD GENIE. BLOOD GENIE addresses a key issue in mechanical thrombectomy: blood loss during clot removal. By retrieving and returning blood to the patient in real time, it prevents anemia and reduces reliance on costly blood bank transfusions, which can cost hospitals \$1,500 to \$2,000 per unit. This combination enhances patient outcomes and reduces hospital stays, making it a compelling solution for physicians and healthcare systems.

With the Series A funding, we aim to finalize development and obtain FDA clearance, bringing ClotHound to market for widespread use.

**CEO CFO: With so many good ideas in the medical arena, why should Retriever Medical stand out?**

Mr. Bobo: Unlike many thrombectomy devices that offer incremental improvements or gimmicky features, Retriever Medical took a fundamentally different approach. We designed our device to safely contact the endothelial lining, enabling effective removal of all clot types, including chronic ones, without compromising vessel safety. Our studies show we can engage clots with minimal to no impact, thanks to our innovative wire interface design.

Our dual-sphere system sets us apart: the distal sphere protects against clot embolization, while the proximal sphere breaks down and removes the clot, all within a single pass exchange for full clot removal. Competitors like Boston Scientific and Inari have validated aspects of our approach with single-sphere designs, but our robust patent portfolio ensures our dual-sphere technology remains unique. This innovative design, backed by strong safety and efficacy data, positions Retriever Medical for success in funding and commercialization.

