

## **Dutch Court Says Johnson & Johnson Unit Infringed On Israeli Company Patent**

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NEW YORK (AP) - Medical device maker Medinol said Monday that a Dutch court issued a preliminary judgment against Johnson & Johnson's Cordis unit for infringing on its patents.

Israel-based Medinol said the injunction will temporarily prevent Cordis from selling its stents in Europe. Stents are metal scaffolds used to keep arteries open.

However, Cordis said the judgment will only prevent it from selling and manufacturing the stents in the Netherlands or distributing them from there.

Cordis spokesman Marty Schildhouse said the Netherlands is Europe's primary distribution center for stents, but that the company "will have operations in place to allow us to operate outside the Netherlands." He wouldn't be more specific and added that the company's stent sales in the Netherlands are minor.

The court said Cordis will have to pay Medinol \$45,900 per breach of the order or \$4,600 for every infringing stent. It was not immediately clear what the total would be.

Both sides said the decision by the Court of Appeals in The Hague was only temporary until the case went to trial. Neither knew when the trial would begin.

Johnson & Johnson shares fell 1 cent to close at \$52.98 a share on the New York Stock Exchange.