

Business Brief -- Medinol Ltd.: Johnson & Johnson Unit Loses Preliminary Dutch Patent Case

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Medinol Ltd., an Israeli medical-devices maker, said a Dutch court issued a preliminary judgment against Johnson & Johnson's Cordis unit for infringing its patents regarding stents. Medinol said the injunction will prevent Cordis from selling its stents in Europe. Stents are metal scaffolds used to prop open clogged arteries. Cordis said the judgment, which affects the BX-Velocity stent, prevents it from selling and manufacturing the product only in the Netherlands or distributing them from there. Medinol said Cordis would have to pay Medinol \$45,900 for each breach of the order or \$4,600 for every infringing stent under the judgment. The sides said the decision by the Court of Appeals in The Hague was temporary until the case went to trial. Neither company knew when the trial would begin. In 4 p.m. New York Stock Exchange composite trading, Johnson & Johnson fell one cent to \$52.98.