SMITH & NEPHEW PLC
Form 6-K
March 15, 2002

FORM 6-K

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

Report of Foreign Private Issuer
Pursuant to Rule 13a-16 or 15d-16
of the Securities Exchange Act of
1934

March 15, 2002

SMITH & NEPHEW plc
(Registrant's name)

Heron House
15 Adam Street
London, England WCN 6LA
(Address of registrant's principal executive offices)

[Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover Form 20-F or Form 40-F.]

Form 20-F X Form 40-F

[Indicate by check mark whether the registrant by furnishing the information contained in this Form is also thereby furnishing information to the Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2 (b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.]

Yes No X

If "Yes" is marked, indicate below the file number assigned to the registrant in connection with Rule 12g3-2 (b) : 82- n/a.

Total Pages: 3

ANTITRUST WAITING PERIOD ENDS FOR ORATEC TENDER OFFER

LONDON, United Kingdom, March 13, 2002 - Smith & Nephew plc (London Stock Exchange:SN. NYSE: SNN), the global advanced medical devices group, today announced that the Hart-Scott-Rodino waiting period applicable to Smith & Nephew's tender offer for all outstanding shares of common stock of ORATEC Interventions, Inc. (NASDAQ: OTEC) has expired. The tender offer is being made pursuant to an agreement and plan of merger dated February 13, 2002. The tender offer will expire at 12:00 Midnight, New York City time, on Thursday, March 21, 2002, unless the offer is extended.

U.S. Bancorp Piper Jaffray is the dealer manager for the tender offer, American Stock Transfer & Trust Company is the depositary and Morrow & Co., Inc. is the information agent.

Enquiries:

Morrow & Co., Inc. Information Agents

Banks & Brokers:	In US	-	(800) 654-2468
	Outside US	-	(212) 754-8000
Stockholders:	In US	-	(800) 607-0088
	Outside US	-	(212) 754-8000
e-mail:	ORATEC.info@morrowco.com		

About Smith & Nephew

Smith & Nephew plc, (London Stock Exchange: SN), (NYSE: SNN), is a global advanced medical devices company with a highly successful track record in developing, manufacturing and marketing a wide variety of innovative and technologically advanced tissue repair products. These products are primarily in the areas of bone, joints, skin and other soft tissue. Smith & Nephew have extensive marketing and distribution capabilities, with established sales in more than 90 countries. For further information, visit Smith & Nephew's Web site at www.smith-nephew.com.

Smith & Nephew Endoscopy (www.endoscopy1.com) is one of its major businesses, and is a world leader in the development and commercialization of endoscopic techniques. Within endoscopy, Smith & Nephew is the recognized world leader in arthroscopy (endoscopic procedures performed on articulating joints).