VARIAN MEDICAL SYSTEMS INC Form 8-A12B/A July 30, 2004

OuickLinks -- Click here to rapidly navigate through this document

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-A/A-5

AMENDMENT NO. 5
To Registration Statement
dated November 23, 1998
relating to
Preferred Stock Purchase Rights

FOR REGISTRATION OF CERTAIN CLASSES OF SECURITIES PURSUANT TO SECTION 12(b) OR (g) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

VARIAN MEDICAL SYSTEMS, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware 94-2359345

(State of incorporation or organization) (IRS Employer Identification No.)

3100 Hansen Way
Palo Alto, CA

(Zip Code)

(Address of principal executive offices)

If this Form relates to the registration of a class of securities pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Exchange Act and is effective pursuant to General Instruction A.(c), please check the following box. ý

If this Form relates to the registration of a class of securities pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Exchange Act and is effective pursuant to General Instruction A.(d), please check the following box. o

Securities Act registration statement file number to which this form relates: N/A

Securities to be registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of each class
To be so registered

Name of each exchange on which each class is to be registered

Preferred Stock Purchase Rights Pacific Exchange

Securities to be registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act:

NONE
(Title of Class)

Item 1. Description of Registrant's Securities to be Registered.

Item 1 is hereby amended by adding the following paragraph:

Effective July 30, 2004, Varian Medical Systems, Inc. (the "Company") entered into an amendment (the "Fifth Amendment") to the Rights Agreement dated as of November 20, 1998, as amended (the "Rights Agreement"), between the Company and EquiServe Trust Company, N.A. ("EquiServe") as successor Rights Agent. The Fifth Amendment, entered into by and among the Company and EquiServe, amends the Rights Agreement, effective as of July 30, 2004 to decrease the Exercise Price of the Rights from \$210.00 to \$105.00, as a result of a stock split of the Company's common stock, effected in the form of a 100% stock dividend.

Item 2. Exhibits.

Item 2 is hereby amended by adding new Exhibit 6 as follows:

xhibit No.	Description
(6)	Fifth Amendment to Rights Agreement, dated as of July 30, 2004, between Varian Medical Systems, Inc. and EquiServe Trust Company, N.A., as successor Rights Agent (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 6 to the Company's Amendment No. 5 to Registration Statement on Form 8-A/A-5 dated July 30, 2004 with respect to the New York Stock Exchange).

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 12 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this amendment to the registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

VARIAN MEDICAL SYSTEMS, INC.

/s/ JOSEPH B. PHAIR

Name: Joseph B. Phair

Title: Vice President, Administration, General Counsel and

Secretary

Dated: July 30, 2004

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit No.	Description
(6)	Fifth Amendment to Rights Agreement, dated as of July 30, 2004, between Varian Medical Systems, Inc. and EquiServe Trust Company, N.A., as successor Rights Agent (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 6 to the Company's Amendment No. 5 to Registration Statement on
	Form 8-A/A-5 dated July 30, 2004 with respect to the New York Stock Exchange).

QuickLinks

Item 1. Description of Registrant's Securities to be Registered.

Item 2. Exhibits.

SIGNATURE

EXHIBIT INDEX