

Clinical breakthrough for Steen Solution™ in lung transplantations

Four further lung transplantations have now been carried out over a short period of time using Steen Solution™, a solution for functional testing of lungs outside the body before transplantation. This means that a total of six people have received new lungs with the aid of this method. Steen Solution™ is the result of research by Professor Stig Steen and the transplantation group at the University Hospital in Lund is the first to have implemented the method in regular clinical use. "This is a clinical breakthrough that makes it possible for more organs to be available for the patients waiting for transplantation," says Dr. Magnus Nilsson, Vitrolife's CEO.

Vitrolife's product Steen Solution™ is part of a new method for functional testing of lungs outside the body which enables donated lungs whose function it is difficult to assess to be tested outside the body for possible use. The number of organs that may be transplanted thus increases considerably. The product was approved for sales in Europe in January.

Vitrolife today has approximately 90 percent of the world market for lung transplantation solutions with its product Perfadex®. Perfadex® is also used together with Steen Solution™ in the new method for the functional testing of lungs outside the body. This medical breakthrough can in time lead to five to ten times as many lung transplantations being able to be carried out, as the need for donated organs using today's methods considerably exceeds supply.

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Vitrolife is a global biotechnology/medical device Group that works with developing, manufacturing and selling advanced products and systems for the preparation, cultivation and storage of human cells, tissue and organs. The company has business activities within three product areas: Fertility, Transplantation and Cell Therapy. The Fertility product area works with nutrient solutions (media) and advanced one-time instruments such as needles and pipettes, for the treatment of human infertility. The Transplantation product area works with solutions and systems to maintain tissue in optimal condition outside the body for the required time while waiting for transplantation. The Cell Therapy product area works with media to enable the use of stem cells for therapeutic purposes.

Vitrolife today has approximately 110 employees and the company's products are sold in more than 80 markets. The head office is in Kungsbäcka, Sweden, and there are subsidiaries outside Gothenburg, Sweden and in Denver, USA. The Vitrolife share is listed on the O-list of the Stockholm Stock Exchange.