Press release
May 19, 2010
Gothenburg, Sweden

Clinical study shows that the STEEN Solution™ method can increase the number of available lungs for transplantation.

The results of the HELP (Human ex vivo Lung Perfusion) study on STEEN Solution™ show that transplantation with ex vivo evaluated lungs was at least as good as in the control group. This conclusion was presented during the ISHLT congress in Chicago in April.

The results after transplantations using ex vivo evaluated lungs were at least as good as in the control group according to Dr. Marcello Cypel, who was responsible for the study. This is remarkable, as 19 of the 22 evaluated lungs before ex vivo evaluation were assessed to be of inferior quality to those in the control group. The study thereby shows that by using ex vivo evaluation of lungs the number of lung transplantations can be increased without the risk of complications increasing in the patient.

In all the study comprises 22 lung transplant patients in the group with ex vivo evaluated lungs. The other 136 lung transplant patients who received transplantations using conventional methods in Toronto during the study period constituted a control group. The results from the Canadian HELP study on ex vivo evaluation of lungs using STEEN Solution™ were presented during the ISHLT international lung and heart transplantation congress in April. The study will be published in a scientific journal within a few months.

Using the STEEN Solution™ evaluation method, the number of available organs that can be transplanted increases considerably as less than 20 percent of the lungs that have been donated are transplanted, for example in the USA, due to uncertainty regarding the organ's function. In time the STEEN Solution™ method can lead to the number of lung transplantations carried out increasing five- to ten-fold, as the method also allows other types of donors to be used. The demand for donated organs for transplantation today 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 Stem Cell Cultivation. The Fertility product area works with nutrient solutions (media), cryopreservation products and advanced consumable instruments such as needles and pipettes, for the treatment of human infertility. The Transplantation product area works with solutions and systems to evaluate and maintain organs outside the body in order to select usable organs and keeping them in optimal condition while waiting for transplantation. The Stem Cell Cultivation product area works with media and instruments to enable the use and handling of stem cells for therapeutic purposes.
Vitrolife today has approximately 170 employees and its products are sold in more than 85 markets. The company is headquartered in Gothenburg, Sweden, and there are subsidiaries in USA, Australia, France, Italy, United Kingdom and Japan. Production facilities are located in Sweden and the USA. The Vitrolife share is listed on NASDAQ OMX Stockholm, Small Cap.

This is a translation of the Swedish version of the press release. When in doubt, the Swedish wording prevails.