

Press Release Humedics

Humedics co-founder Martin Stockmann awarded with Von-Langenbeck Prize for the development of the LiMAx test

Award ceremony at the annual conference of the German Society of Surgery

Berlin, Germany, June 10, 2013 – Humedics GmbH, a specialist for real-time and mobile measurement of the individual liver function at the bedside of the patient, today announced that PD Dr. Martin Stockmann, co-founder of Humedics and advisor of the management, was awarded with the highest honor of surgery in Germany, the Von-Langenbeck Prize of the German Society of Surgery (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Chirurgie).

The Von-Langenbeck Prize is an award for outstanding scientific achievements in the field of surgery. Since 1954, it has been yearly awarded by the German Society of Surgery (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Chirurgie). PD Dr. Martin Stockmann from Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin at the Campus Virchow Hospital, Dept. of General, Visceral and Graft Surgery, received the renowned prize for the development and clinical validation of a new technique for determining liver function in surgery – the LiMAx test – and for ten years of research in the field of liver surgery and liver regeneration. The award ceremony took place at the opening day of the 130th Congress of the German Society of Surgery in Munich. Prof. Dr. Karl-Walter Jauch, president of the society, handed over the prize and congratulated the laureate. Stockmann said: “This prize is a great honor and pleasure for me. It is an award for more than ten years of research in the field of liver surgery and liver regeneration. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage particularly younger colleagues to engage in research. This needs superior efforts, commitment and – as the motto of this congress – passion, but it pays off.”

The award comes in a phase of the final development of the LiMAx test before regulatory product approval. In January, Humedics announced the start of a clinical phase III study. The trial with the short title 'Fast-track LiveR' is a prospective, randomized, controlled, multi-centric, phase III study. The main goal of this study is the early identification of low-risk patients after partial liver resection by the LiMAx test and improvements in patient management based on test results.

About Humedics

Humedics has developed a breath test based diagnostic system (LiMAx test) including the medical device FLIP. More than 100 million people world-wide suffer from chronic liver diseases (i.e. cirrhosis, hepatitis, fatty liver, metabolic disorders and tumors). The LiMAx test enables the clinician to quantitatively determine the individual liver function capacity for a patient within minutes. This allows for selecting treatment strategies optimally adapted to the individual patients liver status. Current applications include diagnosis of the liver function before and after liver transplantation, liver surgery planning (e.g. assessment of the amount of liver to be resected without potentially increasing the risk for liver failure) and assessment of diseases such as liver cirrhosis. Up to date the LiMAx test has been used almost 10,000 times and the results have been published in highly respected scientific journals. For the approval of the LiMAx test Humedics started a phase III clinical trial in January 2013.

Humedics is equity financed by Peppermint VenturePartners (managing the Charité Biomedical Fund) as lead investor together with VC Fonds Technologie managed by IBB-Beteiligungsgesellschaft, ERP Startfonds of the KfW, Ventegis and High-Tech Gründerfonds. The funds enable Humedics to complete the final development and early commercialization of its proprietary and CE-marked diagnostic system to determine the liver function of patients in real time.

Fast-track LiveR Trial

Fast-track LiveR is a prospective, randomized, controlled, multi-centric, phase III study for the early identification of low-risk patients after partial liver resection with the LiMAx test. The LiMAx test determines the actual liver function in real-time. The test includes the application of the diagnostic investigational medicinal product, ¹³C-Methacetin solution for infusion and a breath test involving the use of Humedics' FLIP device for measurement and analysis. 120 patients with different types of liver tumors and designated for open liver surgery are to be included in the study. Two study arms have been set up; each planned to enroll 60 patients. The LiMAx group is subject to a perioperative patient management according to the fast-track procedure. This includes a pre- and postsurgical analysis of the liver function with the LiMAx test. In the control group the perioperative patient management is performed according to current clinical standards. The trial will be conducted at different study centers in Germany and is expected to be completed by the end of 2013.

LiMAx Test

The underlying principle of the LiMAx test involves the following steps: At first, a ¹³C-Methacetin solution is administered intravenously. ¹³C-Methacetin is metabolized in the liver to paracetamol and ¹³CO₂ and the latter is exhaled in the breath. The exhaled air is collected via a respiratory mask. Subsequent measurement of ¹³CO₂ using laser detection in the FLIP device provides a quantitative determination of the liver capacity and thus the liver function.

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