

Press Release Humedics

Humedics receives Innovation Award Berlin Brandenburg

Award for LiMAX breath test for liver diagnostics

Berlin, Germany, December 6, 2014 – Humedics GmbH, a specialist for real-time and mobile measurement of the individual liver function at the bedside of the patient, today announced that the company was awarded with the Innovation Award Berlin Brandenburg 2014. The prize was awarded for the development of the LiMAX test. This breath test allows for the determination of the individual liver function of patients in real time and represents a revolution in functional liver diagnostics.

In an award ceremony on December 5, 2014, Erwin de Buijzer, CEO of Humedics GmbH, and Prof. Karsten Heyne, co-founder of the company, together received the award from Albrecht Gerber, Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy of the federal state of Brandenburg, and Guido Beermann, Permanent Secretary in Berlin's Senate Department for Economics, Technology and Research. The prize, endowed with 10,000 Euro was awarded for the „personalized liver check by a breath test“. The jury pointed out that in the clinical practice the LiMAX test leads to optimal surgery planning and therapy of patients. In the Charité hospital the system has reduced mortality rates after liver surgery more than 60% and can be used for any kind of liver diseases.

Humedics and four other prize winners were awarded with the prize out of 122 applicants in Berlin and Brandenburg.

Erwin de Buijzer stated: “We are very pleased to receive this prestigious prize and feel honored that we have been chosen out of so many innovative applicants in Berlin-Brandenburg. It is a fantastic sign of recognition for the founders. At the same time the award encourages us to accelerate preparations for the market entry of our LiMAX test – for the benefit of physicians and patients.”

The LiMAX test is a result of cooperation between PD Dr. Martin Stockmann from Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin at the Campus Virchow Hospital, Dept. of General, Visceral and Transplantation Surgery, and physicist Prof. Karsten Heyne from the Freie Universität Berlin. This breath test based diagnostic system represents a revolution in functional liver diagnostics by enabling clinicians to quantitatively determine the individual liver function capacity for a patient within minutes. It allows for better risk assessment in liver surgery and thus, superior surgery planning as well as selecting treatment strategies optimally adapted to the individual patients liver status. The LiMAX test provides certainty for the physician, safety for the patient and leads to cost reduction for the hospital.

Just recently, Humedics had announced the closing of a financing round with a consortium of international investors. The raised capital provides the financial basis to prepare the European market entry of Humedics' proprietary LiMAX test and the corresponding FLIP diagnostic device.

About the Innovation Award Berlin Brandenburg

The Innovationspreis Berlin Brandenburg (Innovation Award Berlin Brandenburg) has been jointly awarded by the German Federal States of Berlin and Brandenburg since 1992. Until now (since 1984), more than 3,500 applications have been submitted and 128 prize winners have been awarded. Annually, up to five awardees are honored for product and process innovations and innovative technology services. Awards are endowed with a prize money of 10,000 Euro. In 2014, a jury of 18 experts chaired by Professor Dr. h. c. Dr.-Ing. Eckart Uhlmann, Director of the Fraunhofer Institute for Production Systems and Design Technology IPK in Berlin and of the Institute for Machine Tools and Factory Management (IWF) of the TU Berlin, nominated the finalists and prize winners.

www.innovationspreis-bb.de

About Humedics

Humedics has developed a breath test based diagnostic system (LiMAx test), which comprises a CE-marked medical device, breath masks and a diagnostic drug. More than 100 million people worldwide suffer from liver diseases (i.e. cirrhosis, hepatitis, fatty liver, metabolic disorders and liver tumors). The LiMAx test enables the clinician to quantitatively determine the individual liver function capacity for a patient within minutes. This allows for selection of treatment strategies that are 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 of liver failure) and assessment of diseases such as liver cirrhosis. The LiMAx test has been used more than 12,500 times in clinical practice. Results have been published in highly respected scientific journals. For the approval of the LiMAx test Humedics is presently conducting a phase III multi-center clinical trial. Results are expected mid 2015.

LiMAx Test

The underlying principle of the LiMAx test involves the following steps: Firstly, the diagnostic drug solution is administered intravenously and the drug is metabolized in the liver to paracetamol and $^{13}\text{CO}_2$. The latter is exhaled in the breath. The exhaled air is collected via a respiratory mask. Subsequent continuous measurement of $^{13}\text{CO}_2$ in the patients' breath using laser detection in the FLIP device provides a quantitative determination of the liver capacity and thus reflects the liver function.

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