

Press release
December 15, 2008
Gothenburg, Sweden

Two lung transplantations performed in Manchester using new technology

The University Hospital of Manchester, England, is now the first clinic outside Sweden to have used the STEEN Solution™ method clinically. Two double lung transplantations have been performed with positive results. "It is exciting to note that Steen Solution™ and lung evaluation outside the body are beginning to become clinical practice in a leading country such as the UK, and that more people with lung disease thereby receive effective treatment," says Magnus Nilsson, CEO of Vitrolife.

At the beginning of September Vitrolife announced that a lung transplantation had been performed for the first time using the STEEN Solution™ technology outside Sweden. Earlier on in the development and the first clinical use eight transplantations have been carried out using STEEN Solution™ at the University Hospital of Lund, where the technology was developed under the leadership of Professor Stig Steen.

The University Hospital of Manchester that performed the transplantation has now performed one further transplantation. According to Nizar Yonan, the hospital's Transplant Director, both the transplantations were successful. Nizar Yonan says to the BBC that the method means that "we can have a better idea of those lungs and their function". Due to the STEEN Solution™ method, which offers an opportunity to test the lung's function outside the body, lungs could be used which would have been out of the question without the aid of the technology. Kenneth Collins, who has suffered from COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), is the first patient in the UK and is grateful to have got his life back. He says to the BBC that after the operation he feels "at least ten to fifteen years younger".

With the STEEN Solution™ method, the number of potential organs that can be transplanted increases considerably. In the USA, for example, less than 20 percent of the lungs donated are transplanted today, due to uncertainty about the function of the organ. In time the STEEN Solution™ method can lead to a fivefold to tenfold increase in the number of lung transplantations carried out, as the need for donated organs using today's methods considerably exceeds supply.

STEEN Solution™ is approved for sales in Europe, that is it is CE marked. At present a clinical study is ongoing in Canada using STEEN Solution™, which will form the basis of an application for sales approval in the USA and Canada.

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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) 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 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 140 employees and the company's products are sold in more than 80 markets. The head office is in Gothenburg, Sweden, and there are subsidiaries in USA, Australia and Italy. The Vitrolife share is listed on the OMX Nordic Exchange Stockholm's Nordic Small Cap list.

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