Author's response to reviews

Title: Effect on the tensile strength of human acellular dermis (Epiflex(R)) of in-vitro incubation simulating an open abdomen setting

Authors:

Mario Vitacolonna (m.vitacolonna@gmail.com)
Michael Mularczyk (Mularczyk@mpa-ifw.tu-darmstadt.de)
Florian Herrle (florian.herrle@umm.de)
Torsten J Schulze (Torsten.Schulze@medma.uni-heidelberg.de)
Hans Haupt (haupt@mpa-ifw.tu-darmstadt.de)
Matthias Oechsner (oechsner@mpa-ifw.tu-darmstadt.de)
Lothar R Pilz (Lothar.Pilz@medma.uni-heidelberg.de)
Peter Hohenberger (peter.hohenberger@umm.de)
Eric D Roessner (eric.roessner@umm.de)

Version: 2 Date: 22 June 2013

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Al,

Thank you for your quick response to our submission. All of our research was indeed carried out in compliance to the Helsinki declaration. An appropriate amendment was made in our script (please refer to Methods and Materials section).

Regarding approval of the ethics committee we would like to state the following:

- The hAD is of human origin. But it is already approve as a drug by the German medical authorities and available on the market. We therefore are not in need of an ethic committee approval.
- The urine was donated voluntarily and was pooled. We therefore are not in need of an ethic committee approval. This is supported by the head of the institutional ethics committee (Prof. Dr. med. Jens P. Striebel, Head of "Ethik Kommission II der Medizinischen Fakultät Mannheim", Maybachstrasse 14, 68169 Mannheim, Germany, Email: ethikkommission-II@medma.uni-heidelberg.de)
- The upper GI secretion was taken out of the suction device reservoir used during upper GI endoscopy. These secretions are routinely sucked away for inspection of the mucosa during the examination and are discharged. Since we just used pooled waste material, we are not in need of an ethic committee approval. This is supported by the head of the institutional ethics committee (Prof. Dr. med. Jens P. Striebel, Head of "Ethik Kommission II der Medizinischen Fakultät Mannheim", Maybachstrasse 14, 68169 Mannheim, Germany, Email: ethikkommission-II@medma.uni-heidelberg.de)
- Blood cells and fluids were voluntary donated. All donors signed an informed consent that part of their donation may be used for research purposes. Furthermore cells used for our investigation are routinely discharged since they are not transfusabale. (please refer to Ethic Approval 87/04 of the Ethik Kommission II der Medizinischen Fakultät Mannheim", Maybachstrasse 14, 68169 Mannheim, Germany, Email: ethikkommission-II@medma.uni-heidelberg.de)
We apologize for any inconvenience we caused and hope that we clarified all depending issues.

With kind regards

Eric Dominic Roessner, MD
Consultant General and Thoracic Surgeon
Vice Head, Division of Surgical Oncology and Thoracic Surgery