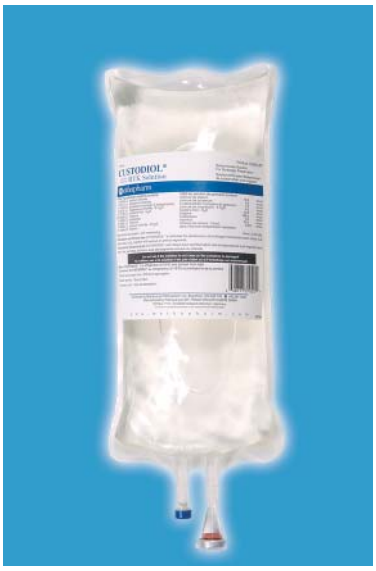
CUSTODIOL® HTK Solution

The Cold Standard

"Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow." - Anon.

www.custodiol.ca Volume 3, Issue 1 March 30, 2009

Preferred by the Majority of Canadian Transplant Centres



CUSTODIOL® HTK: The solution of Choice for Canadian transplant professionals

Custodiol® HTK solution in abdominal organ preservation: A review of recent literature

A recent article in Clinical Transplantation 2008 (Clin Transplant 2008 DOI: 10.1111/j.1399-0012.2008.00952.x) by Dr. Fridell et al., of Indiana University School of Medicine, entitled "Clinical experience with histidine-tryptophan-ketoglutarate solution in abdominal organ preservation: a review of recent literature", summarizes recent literature describing the clinical use of Custodiol® HTK in abdominal transplantation with references to earlier reports.

The article notes that in contrast to UW, HTK maintains a low K+ concentration so that it can safely be released into the circulation. It also highlights the low viscosity of HTK: "Perhaps the most noticeable characteristic is the very low viscosity of HTK (similar to that of water at 1–35°C) leading to a rapid flow rate (three times that of UW) and quicker cooling of organs. HTK has a shelf life of one year and requires no additives and no filter, so from a practical standpoint its application is very straightforward with minimal risk for contamination."

With an eye on the current economic situation, the article commented on the price of Custodiol "One of the major incentives for the increased use of HTK in recent years is the difference in price compared to UW and the potential cost saving advantage". Additional comments underline that Custodiol is associated with fewer biliary complications: "In terms of biliary complications, comparing the 371 HTK and 327 UW preserved liver grafts in that study, significantly more recipients in the UW group required biliary imaging within one yr of liver transplantation [HTK 51%, UW 60% ($p = 0.01$)] and had biliary sludge [HTK 3.8%, UW 11.3% ($p = 0.001$)]." Lastly, the fact that HTK has a lower viscosity is mentioned as having an advantage in liver transplantation: "the decreased frequency of stricture formation with HTK is related to the ability of this less viscous solution to penetrate and adequately flush the biliary vascular plexus, decreasing the risk of ischemic-type strictures".

In closing, the article notes that even if a center uses an alternative preservation solution, it is likely that import offers will be made for allografts that have been preserved in HTK and that it is then therefore important for the transplant community to be aware of the properties of HTK and the advantages and disadvantages of its use.

Transplantation Meeting And Event Calendar

April 4, 2009
Curling Event - Leaside Curling Club - Toronto
Join other CTA members and supporters for an afternoon of curling and socializing
Contact: Mae at 905-597-2496 or **mae_hererra@yahoo.ca**

August 22-30, 2009
17th World Transplant Games
Gold Coast of Australia
(east coast of Queensland)
www.worldtransplantgames09.com

Canadian Blood Services Launches Living Donor Paired Exchange Registry

Canadian Blood Services has publicly launched the Living Donor Paired Exchange Registry, a new and innovative registry that is designed to facilitate kidney donations among live donors and further help Canadians suffering from life-threatening kidney disease. The registry is designed to match live kidney donors with suitable recipients who are suffering from end stage renal disease and in need of a transplant. Frequently, healthy and motivated Canadians are unable to be living kidney donors because their blood group or tissue type is incompatible with their intended recipient - such as a friend or relative. In a paired exchange, these live kidney donors - healthy people who donate one of their two kidneys - are matched with other compatible recipients. Once an acceptable match is made, a swap occurs between two sets of kidney donors and recipients. The more pairs that register, the greater the chances of finding compatible kidney matches. The Living Donor Paired Exchange Registry will dramatically increase the pool of living kidney donors across Canada and bring together people who are motivated to help those in need of a transplant. From: http://www.bloodservices.ca/

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