

LONG-TERM IMPLANTABLE CATHETER

This project aims at developing a novel catheter for a continuous long-term access to the hepatic vein to measure hepatic venous portal gradient avoiding repeated invasive procedures

BACKGROUND

Portal hypertension is a progressively debilitating complication of cirrhosis and a principal cause of mortality in patients with advanced or end-stage chronic liver disease.

In some patients the measurement of the hepatic venous portal gradient (HVPG), is a procedure likely to be performed several times over weeks, months or years, hence necessitating each time a highly specialized infrastructure.

For these reasons, a long term way of access to the hepatic vein and a method to easily measure HVPG could represent an appropriate solution, bypassing the need for repeated invasive procedures.

TECHNOLOGY DESCRIPTION

This project aims at developing a novel long-term catheter to access the hepatic vein and to measure HVPG for therapeutic purposes and clinical use. In perspective, this innovation has the potential of becoming a clinically relevant instrument in guiding physicians in their decisions and providing additional knowledge to researchers in the field of portal hypertension and vascular pharmacology.

ADVANTAGES

Over the current available methods, this catheter has the advantage of offering continuous long-term pressure monitoring and hepatic access without repeated invasive procedures.

Patients will benefit from:

- A single invasive procedure.
- A precise monitoring avoiding pharmacological over- or under-treatment and side effects to adequately decrease portal pressure.

- The possibility to have HVPG measured as needed, quickly, without a special equipment and around the clock.
- An easy access to the hepatic vein for therapeutic purposes.

Doctors and investigators will be able to:

- Monitor HVPG in real time with accurate measurements and virtually no limitations in the number of measurements.
- Easily acquire novel data on long-term efficacy of vasoactive drugs on portal pressure.
- Easily remove the catheter if necessary.

GOAL

We are searching companies interested in the acquisition of the license and the commercialization of the product.

PATENT

Spanish Patent application P200803416 filed in December 2008.

Applicants: Hospital Clínic de Barcelona, Fundació Clínic per a la Recerca Biomèdica and Universitat de Barcelona.

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