ENGINEERING STROKE SOLUTIONS

Pforzheim, Germany | October 2023

We would like to call your attention to some corrections to the article:
"*Surface modification of neurovascular stents: from bench to patient*" *(Zoppo et al. 2023)* which addresses, among other things, characteristics of the fibrin-heparin coating (HEAL Technology).

The review describes current coating technologies for neurovascular stents, but with some misleading information concerning HEAL Technology. It seems necessary to *bring some precision* for a better understanding on the mechanism of action of the HEAL coating.

HEAL Technology is not an active drug coating. The fibrin network together with the heparin covalently bound to it passivates the surface without actively interfering with cellular processes or components. The coating is non-eluting and has no pharmacological effect.

The binding of heparin is not controlled by the coagulation cascade. In the review the binding of heparin is described by its activation by thrombin. However, the reference to the coagulation cascade is not accurate at this point. The last step of the coagulation cascade, namely the conversion of fibrinogen to fibrin by the activated thrombin, is imitated during the coating process. The resulting fully polymerized fibrin network then forms an optimal scaffold for endothelialization, as in wound healing. Additional heparin is subsequently covalently bound to fibrin by chemical processing following network generation. This ensures that heparin cannot be released into the system.

For more information, please feel free to visit our website:
https://www.acandis.com/produkt-portfolio/technologien/heal-technology/

One more point we would like to correct: Acandis' headquarter is located in **Pforzheim, Germany**, not *Pforsheim* in Delaware, USA. Acandis Inc., a subsidiary of Acandis GmbH in Pforzheim, is situated in Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA.

About Acandis GmbH:

Acandis GmbH is a German, owner-managed medical devices company based in Pforzheim. We are specialised in the development, manufacturing and marketing of products for the treatment of neurovascular diseases.

Our work is focused on user-oriented research and development based on a sound knowledge of process technology – **Engineering Stroke Solutions!**

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