Blood is naturally compatible with vascular endothelium, not artificial surfaces

Blood is compatible with the healthy vascular endothelium, a single layer of cells that lines all blood vessels and the heart.

The endothelium plays an active biological role in maintaining homeostasis, or a balance, among the various body defense systems in a manner that simultaneously provides a state of readiness and avoids the trigger of adverse responses. \(^1,2\)

The blood-contacting surfaces of endothelial cells are highly negatively charged, a characteristic that may repel the negatively charged platelets and be important in limiting the hemostatic reaction. \(^3\)

**Responses to Blood-Material Contact**

- **Blood-Surface Contact**
  - Protein adsorption onto surface
  - Protein alterations
    - Coagulation
    - Fibrinolysis
    - Kallikrein/Kinin
    - Complement
    - Cytokines
  - Formed element alterations
    - Platelets
    - Red blood cells
    - White blood cells

**Systemic Inflammatory Response**
Blood recognizes the extracorporeal circuit surfaces as “foreign,” triggering coagulation and inflammatory events that may lead to adverse patient outcomes

Within seconds of blood exposure to artificial, non-endothelial surfaces, there is a rapid adsorption of proteins from the blood onto the surface of the foreign material. Adsorption onto a surface may result in protein denaturation, such as the denaturation of adsorbed fibrinogen, and ultimately lead to activation of the plasma proteolytic systems. Subsequent events, including cell adhesion, are mediated by the adsorbed protein layer. The blood’s formed elements and other specific protein groups in the blood that are associated with the body’s defense systems may then interact with the material and its new protein layer. Ultimately, the biological reactions associated with the defense systems may affect the heart, lungs, brain and other organs, causing conditions that have been described as the “systemic inflammatory response syndrome.”

Biocompatible surfaces for Medtronic extracorporeal circulation technologies mimic critical characteristics of the vascular endothelium

These biocompatible surfaces mitigate the foreign body response that occurs when blood comes in contact with non-endothelial surfaces.

Around the world, leading cardiovascular surgery teams adopt biocompatible surfaces offered by Medtronic as a critical component of comprehensive, multi-modal strategies to achieve the best possible outcomes for their patients undergoing extracorporeal circulation.
Balance™ Biosurface is a hydrophilic polymer coating without heparin for cardiopulmonary bypass circuit devices that reduces platelet adhesion and activation and preserves platelet function. Representing Medtronic’s commitment to perfusion solutions, Balance Biosurface expands options used by cardiovascular surgery teams for comprehensive strategies to achieve the best possible outcomes for their patients undergoing cardiopulmonary bypass.

Warning: A strict anticoagulation protocol should be followed and anticoagulation should be routinely monitored during all procedures. The benefits of extracorporeal support must be weighed against the risk of systemic anticoagulation and must be assessed by the prescribing physician.

Caution: Federal law (USA) restricts devices coated with Balance™ Biosurface to sale by or on the order of a physician. For a listing of indications, contraindications, precautions and warnings, please refer to the Instructions for Use which accompanies each product.

Schematic provided for illustrative purposes only and is not to scale.
1 Prime coat
A priming layer is strongly bonded to the artificial surface.

2 Functional layer
The hydrophilic ("water loving") functional layer is strongly bonded to the prime coat and provides the key endothelial-like benefits for the blood contacting surfaces of cardiopulmonary bypass circuits:

2a Negative charge
Sulphate and sulfonate groups are incorporated into the Balance Biosurface functional layer to mimic the negative charge of the vascular endothelium.

Research reports that negatively-charged sulphonated polymers:

- Repel platelets, which are negatively charged 6,7,8
- Inhibit thrombin by binding to antithrombin in a heparin-like manner 9,10,11
- May impair additional processes required for thrombus formation 9,12

2b Hydrophilicity
Polyethylene oxide (PEO) polymer is a second functional layer component. PEO is a hydrophilic molecule. In the primed circuit, PEO creates an "insulating" water layer structure between the blood and artificial surface to resist cell adhesion and protein deposition.
Reduced platelet and cell adhesion and activation on the Balance Biosurface SEM (bottom) compared to the uncoated oxygenator fiber SEM (top).

Uncoated oxygenator fiber SEM (top) shows extensive platelet and cell deposition and activation on the fiber surface. In contrast, minimal deposition and activation is seen on the Balance Biosurface SEM (bottom).

Ask your Medtronic Representative today about Medtronic perfusion technologies available with Balance™ Biosurface.
Preserved function of circulating platelets

Comparison between Balance-coated and uncoated in vitro bench test circuits of percentage of platelets that are activated with adenosine diphosphate (ADP @ 20 µM) in circulating heparinized human blood over time.

Balance™ Biosurface is associated with a greater percentage of functional platelets (‡ p < 0.02 at 10, 30, 60 and 120 minutes).

β-Thromboglobulin (β-TG), a marker of platelet activation, over time.

Balance™ Biosurface is associated with a reduction in platelet activation as marked by reduced β-TG generation (Δ p < 0.001, † p < 0.0001).

Comparison between Balance-coated and uncoated in vitro bench test circuits of percentage of platelets that are activated with adenosine diphosphate (ADP @ 20 µM) in circulating heparinized human blood over time.

Balance Biosurface is associated with a greater percentage of functional platelets (‡ p < 0.02 at 10, 30, 60 and 120 minutes).

Comparison between Balance Biosurface-coated and uncoated in vitro bench test circuits circulating heparinized human blood over time at device maximum rated flow rate.
References


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For more information on other Medtronic technologies for extracorporeal circulation, blood processing and diagnostics, visit: www.perfusion.medtronic.com

www.medtronic.com

World Headquarters
Medtronic, Inc.
710 Medtronic Parkway
Minneapolis, MN 55432-5604
USA
Tel: (763) 514-4000
Fax: (763) 514-4879
Medtronic USA, Inc.
Toll-free: 1 (800) 328-2518
(24-hour technical support for physicians and medical professionals)

Europe
Medtronic International Trading Sàrl
Route du Molliau 31
Case postale 84
CH-1131 Tolenchaz
Switzerland
Tel: +41.21.802.7000
Fax: +41.21.802.7900

Canada
Medtronic of Canada Ltd.
99 Hereford Street
Brampton, Ontario L6Y 0R3
Canada
Tel: (905) 460-3800
Fax: (905) 826-6620
Toll-free: 1 (800) 268-5346

Asia
Medtronic International, Ltd.
Suite 1602 16/F, Manulife Plaza
The Lee Gardens, 33 Hysan Avenue
Causeway Bay
Hong Kong
Tel: (852) 2891 4068
Fax: (852) 2591 0313
enquiryap@medtronic.com

Latin America
Medtronic USA, Inc.
Doral Corporate Center II
3750 NW 87th Avenue Suite 700
Miami, FL 33178
USA
Tel: (305) 500-9328
Fax: (786) 709-4244

LifeLine
CardioVascular Technical Support
Tel: (877) 526-7890
Tel: (763) 526-7890
Fax: (763) 526-7888
E-mail: rs.cstechsupport@medtronic.com