

SUCCESSFUL CANINE PANCREATIC ISLET TRANSPLANTATION USING VIASPAN™

Technically, pancreatic islet transplantation as a therapeutical approach to human diabetes has become more realistic. The lack of efficient means of purifying islets from contaminating exocrine tissue however, remains a major impediment to safe islet transplantation. Recently we demonstrated that the use of UW organ preservation solution (Viaspan™, Du Pont) for the isolation of canine islets consistently results in >90% purified islets. In order to test the viability of Viaspan-isolated islets, we introduced this new approach to islet isolation in our current study of metabolic control after autotransplantation of canine islets. Five normal dogs underwent total pancreatectomy. Islets were isolated from the excised pancreas by collagenase digestion at 38 °C and, after addition of ice-cold isolation medium - either the Viaspan solution (n=3) or RPMI₁₆₄₀ tissue culture medium (n=2) - by discarding ducts and large blood vessels, and gentle syringing (14G) with expulsion over a 400 µm filter. Next islets were purified by density gradient centrifugation, and autotransplanted into the spleen of the dog by retrograde venous infusion. Graft function was assessed up to 3 mo by determining the glucose and insulin response to an intravenous glucose injection (IVGTT) and a meal. The islet dose at transplantation ranged from 3500-13000 islets (Ø > 75 µm)/kg b.w. One animal became overtly hyperglycemic within 7 days after receiving 3500 Viaspan-isolated islets/kg b.w., although well-preserved islets could be demonstrated by immunostaining for insulin. The other grafts (>6000 islets/kg b.w.) were successful (normal fasting glucose) but demonstrated, compared to preoperative values, a 50% reduced glucose tolerance and insulin response at IVGTT. Postprandially moderate hyperglycemia (~10 mM) and in contrast to IVGTT, a normal insulin response was observed. In dogs "one-to-one" transplantation was successful in recipients of >6000 isolated islets/kg b.w.. The difference in the effect of islet transplantation on the insulin response to intravenous glucose and a meal, may be related to the postprandial activation of the entero-insular axis. The use of Viaspan solution for isolation of viable highly purified islets, should promote safe islet transplantation.

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Part two

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 name institution
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 2 3 0 0 R C
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Title of abstract: Successful canine pancreatic islet transplantation using ViaSpan™

Author(s): M.P.M. van der Burg, O.R. Guicherit, R.J. Ploeg, J.P. Scherft, J.A. Bruijn,
 M Frölich, F.A. Prins, H.G. Gooszen

Institution(s): Surgery, Surgical Research, Cell Biology, Pathology and Endocrinology

In liver transplantation, there is a need for markers which can predict the viability of a preserved liver graft prior to implantation. 5'-Nucleotidase (5'-NT) activity in the bile canaliculi membranes is a sensitive parameter of ischemic liver cell damage. We assessed the localization of bile canaliculi 5'-NT activity as an indicator of preservation induced injury in cold stored canine livers. Four canine livers were cold stored in UW-solution for 24 hours and were transplanted orthotopically. The 5'-NT activity was determined in biopsies taken after cold flush of the liver, at the end of the preservation time and one hour after reflow in the recipient dog. All dogs survived with serum aspartate transaminase (AST), values having returned to near-normal by p.o. day 3. They were sacrificed on p.o. day 6. The results are shown in the Table (p. 176).

Dog 1 and dog 3 had comparable 5'-NT scores (70%) after 24 h preservation with maximal AST values of 1669 U/l and 1584 U/l resp. Dog 2 had a lower 5'-NT score (61%) and a higher maximal AST (3388 U/l) after the same preservation time. Dog 4 had the best 5'-NT score after 24 h preservation (100%) and this dog came out with the lowest maximal AST value (715 U/l). A second finding was that one hour after reflow, the 5'-NT score was considerably decreased confirming that at reperfusion, an additional trauma to the graft is induced. These studies are continued with orthotopic transplants after 48 h and 72 h preservation times. Our ultimate objective is to define a cut-off point for 5'-NT activity, beyond which function of the liver graft is not life-supporting.

The determination of 5'-NT activity provides a simple test which may prove valuable to assess the viability of liver grafts. This method is further explored in relation with preservation and graft reperfusion studies.

Successful canine pancreatic islet transplantation using Viaspan™ – M. P. M. van der Burg, O. R. Guicherit, R. J. Ploeg, J. P. Scherft, J. A. Bruijn, M. Frölich, F. A. Prins and H. G. Gooszen (Department of Surgery, Laboratory of Experimental Surgery and Departments of Cell Biology, Pathology and Endocrinology, Academic Hospital, State University Leiden, Leiden)

Technically, pancreatic islet transplantation as a therapeutic approach to human diabetes has become more realistic. The lack of efficient means of purifying islets from contaminating exocrine tissue, however, remains a major impediment to safe islet transplantation. Recently, we demonstrated that the use of UW organ preservation solution (Viaspan™, Du Pont) for the isolation of canine islets consistently results in >90% purified islets. In order to test the viability of

Viaspan-isolated islets, we introduced this new approach to islet isolation in our current study of metabolic control after autotransplantation of canine islets. Five normal dogs underwent total pancreatectomy. Islets were isolated from the excised pancreas by collagenase digestion at 38 °C and, after addition of ice-cold isolation medium – either the Viaspan solution ($n = 3$) or RPMI 1640 tissue culture medium ($n = 2$) – by discarding ducts and large blood vessels, and gentle syringing (14G) with expulsion over a 400 µm filter. Next islets were purified by density gradient centrifugation, and autotransplanted into the spleen of the dog by retrograde venous infusion. Graft function was assessed up to 3 mo by determining the glucose and insulin response to an intravenous glucose injection (IVGTT) and a meal. The islet dose at transplantation ranged from 3500–13000 islets (diameter > 75 µm)/kg b.w. One animal became overtly hyperglycemic within seven days after receiving 3500 Viaspan-isolated islets/kg b.w., although well-preserved islets could be demonstrated by immunostaining for insulin. The other grafts (> 6000 islets/kg b.w.) were successful (normal fasting glucose) but demonstrated, compared to preoperative values, a 50% reduced glucose tolerance and insulin response at IVGTT. Postprandially moderate hyperglycemia (± 10 mM) and in contrast to IVGTT, a normal insulin response were observed. In dogs 'one-to-one' transplantation was successful in recipients of > 6000 isolated islets/kg b.w. The difference in the effect of islet transplantation on the insulin response to intravenous glucose and a meal, may be related to the postprandial activation of the entero-insular axis. The use of Viaspan solution for isolation of viable highly purified islets, should promote safe islet transplantation.

Alginate-polylysine microencapsulation prevents allograft rejection in rat pancreatic islet transplantation – W. M. Fritschy, G. H. J. Wolters and R. van Schilf-gaarde (Departments of Experimental Surgery and Surgery, Academic Hospital, State University Groningen, Groningen)

Microencapsulation is the envelopment of small pieces of tissue (e.g. isolated pancreatic islets) within a biocompatible and semipermeable membrane, as means of immuno-isolation in allogeneic transplantation. In this study, we compared the effects of intraperitoneal transplantation of *a* unencapsulated isogenic islets (Albino Oxford → AO), *b* unencapsulated allogeneic islets (Lewis → AO), and *c* alginate-polylysine microencapsulated allogeneic islets (Lew → AO), on non-fasting blood glucose levels (BG) of streptozotocin diabetic rats (BG > 20 mM). Each transplantation was performed with 8–12 µl islet tissue (2500–3000