

Vygon launches Surfcath, a novel catheter to treat premature babies with RDS

19 September 2019 | News

Surfcath eliminates need for Magill forceps during Less Invasive Surfactant Administration (LISA) method for smoother administration of surfactant in preterm babies



Vygon Group, a specialist single-use medical devices group, introduces Surfcath™, a unique catheter to be used for administering surfactant with the LISA method for preterm babies with Respiratory Distress Syndrome (RDS), a leading cause of death in premature infants.

The new 20-centimetre long, transparent, semi-rigid SurfCath catheter features a curved distal tip, improving manoeuvrability during the placement of the medical device, while eliminating the need for the commonly used Magill forceps. This will ensure smoother application and lower risk of injuries in premature babies.

RDS is a breathing disorder resulting from surfactant deficiency and underdeveloped lungs, primarily occurring in preterm babies. In Europe, RDS is reported in about 90% of babies born at 24 weeks and 80 per cent of babies born at 28 weeks. A significant part of RDS treatment is surfactant administration. The current preferred method for surfactant administration is the LISA method, using a thin catheter inserted through the vocal cords in order to avoid unnecessary intubation. This can be performed in a number of ways, which commonly require the use of Magill forceps, a bulky device that is not easy to use and could lead to injuries in the mucosa. The special design of the new Surfcath device now enables healthcare professionals to insert it without the need for these forceps.

“Premature neonates are at increased risk of a number of conditions, including Respiratory Distress Syndrome, a serious danger in the first few weeks of their lives. At Vygon we develop bespoke single-use medical devices for patients, including the tiniest, and strive to decrease the risks of injuries or discomfort during procedures while using our devices. We are proud of our latest innovation, Surfcath, co-invented with Dr Kribs from the University Hospital of Cologne (Uniklinik Köln, Germany). This catheter could considerably improve the preemies care, right after birth,” said François Rochiccioli, executive vice president, Vygon.

Vygon's Surfcath will be available from December 2019 in a 6Fr size, suitable for all neonates. The catheter will be available first in Europe and then in the Americas and in the Asia-Pacific region according to the local registration timelines.