Hydrofera

Pioneering Advancements in PVA Technology

June 10, 2009

Dear Clinician:

In 2006 we received several inquiries concerning the safety of using Hydrofera Blue® Bacteriostatic Dressing in hyperbaric environments including monoplace chambers. The concern was driven mainly by a misunderstanding of the products chemical structure due to the use of alcohol in the description of the foam polyvinylalcohol (PVA). To some, the word alcohol implies volatility, which is a total misunderstanding of the nature of the chemical structure.

To combat this misunderstanding, we commissioned Dr. Theodore Heying, PhD, to issue a statement on the safety and efficacy of Hydrofera Blue® Bacteriostatic Dressing in a hyperbaric environment. As seen in the attached, Dr. Heying spells out the fact that Hydrofera Blue® is constructed of a nonvolatile form of the organic alcohol molecule and presents no problems for use in a hyperbaric setting.

Further, Dr. Heying points out that PVA is so stable that it is used in many commercial fire retardant applications. Hydrofera Blue® is nonvolatile.

We stand fully behind the safety and efficacy of Hydrofera Blue® Bacteriostatic Dressing with regard to hyperbaric use. Should you have any concerns, please contact me at 860-456-0677 or Dr. Heying at 203-248-4008.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Drury
President & COO
Hydrofera, LLC
Manufacturer of Hydrofera Blue® Bacteriostatic Dressing

Hydrofera® LLC · 322 Main Street, Willimantic, Connecticut 06226
HR1090

Phone 860.456.0677
Fax 860.456.0898
Website www.Hydrofera.com
E-mail Hydrofera@aol.com

Hydrofera

Pioneering Advancements in PVA Technology

June 10, 2009

Notes on the use of Hydrofera Blue® Bacteriostatic Dressing in a Hyperbaric Chamber;

Over the past few months Hydrofera has received inquiries concerning the safety of using Hydrofera Blue® Bacteriostatic Dressing in Hyperbaric Chambers. Although several clinicians have successfully used Hydrofera Blue® Bacteriostatic Dressing in a Hyperbaric setting we have been advised that recently a couple of facilities have recommended against its use based on its chemical makeup and the belief that it contains a volatile type of alcohol.

Let me just state unequivocally, that Hydrofera Blue® Bacteriostatic Dressing is nonvolatile and there is no problem with using Hydrofera Blue® Bacteriostatic Dressing in a Hyperbaric Chamber. The fear that the product is volatile due to its alcohol content is misunderstood, misplaced, and misinformed.

Alcohol is a generic term for a huge class on organic molecules having certain structural characteristics. Some alcohols such as methanol, ethanol, isopropyl alcohol, and ethylene glycol, are extremely volatile due to their relatively low boiling points and noticeable vapor pressure and could cause problems in a Hyperbaric Chamber.

However, there are many higher molecular weight alcohols that are solid and have no vapor pressure and can be used safely in a Hyperbaric Chamber. Polyvinylalcohol (PVA) resin, which is a raw material used to produce Hydrofera Blue® Bacteriostatic Dressing, is one of these. And unlike volatile Alcohols, base PVA is so stabile it is currently used in many commercial fire retardant applications. The raw material used to make Hydrofera Blue® Bacteriostatic Dressing and the final product have no vapor pressure and no melting point since it decomposes when heated to high temperature.

In summary, Hydrofera Blue® Bacteriostatic Dressing is not a volatile product and can be used in a Hyperbaric Chamber.

Theodore L. Heying, Ph.D.

Dr. Heying is an Organic Chemist who spent most of his life in research. During that time he was Director of Research for a Fortune 300 Company. He has numerous publications in scientific and medical journals.

Hydrofera® LLC · 322 Main Street, Willimantic, Connecticut 06226

HB1090

Phone 860.456.0677
Fax 860.456.0898
Website www.Hydrofera.com
E-mail Hydrofera@aol.com