

We claim:

1. A method for purging a blood pump, comprising:
providing a blood pump comprising a motor section and a pump section;
inserting the blood pump into a patient;
operating the blood pump to:
 - i) provide a purge fluid to the motor section, wherein the purge fluid flows into gaps between a bearing in a motor housing of the motor section; and
 - ii) cause an impeller in the pump section to rotate based on a rotation of a shaft in the motor section by a motor in the motor section; andwherein the purge fluid comprises a pH controlling and buffering agent.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the purge fluid further comprises aqueous dextrose.
3. The method of claim 2 wherein the purge fluid further comprises heparin.
4. The method of one claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the pH controlling and buffering agent is selected from the group consisting of sodium bicarbonate, citrate, lactate, gluconate, acetate and, pyruvate.
5. The method of claim 4 wherein the pH controlling and buffering agent is sodium bicarbonate.
6. The method of claim 5 wherein an amount of the pH controlling agent in the purge fluid is about 1.5 milliequivalents per liter (mEq/L) to about 50 mEq/L.
7. The method of one of claim 1 or claim 6 wherein the pH of the pH controlling and buffering agent is about 7.4 to about 9.1.
8. The method of claim 3 wherein an amount of heparin in the purge fluid is zero to about 12.5 units per milliliter.
9. The method of claim 8 wherein the amount of heparin in the purge fluid is zero to about 6.25 units per milliliter.
10. The method of claim 9 wherein the amount of heparin in the purge fluid is about 1 units per milliliter to about 6.25 units per milliliter.
11. The method of claim 4 wherein the purge fluid further comprises a direct thrombin inhibitor.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein the direct thrombin inhibitor is argatroban, or bivalirudin, or mixtures thereof.

13. The method of claim 11 wherein an amount of the direct thrombin inhibitor in the purge fluid is about 20 mg/500 ml to about 60 mg/500 ml.

14. The method of one of claim 1 or claim 6 wherein the pH of the pH controlling and buffering agent is about 7.5 to about 9.1.

15. The method of one of claim 1 or claim 6 wherein the pH of the pH controlling and buffering agent is about 7.6 to about 9.1.

16. The method of one of claim 1 or claim 6 wherein the pH of the pH controlling and buffering agent is about 7.7 to about 9.1.

17. The method of one of claim 1 or claim 6 wherein the pH of the pH controlling and buffering agent is about 7.8 to about 9.1.

18. The method of one of claim 1 or claim 6 wherein the pH of the pH controlling and buffering agent is about 7.9 to about 9.1.

19. The method of one of claim 1 or claim 6 wherein the pH of the pH controlling and buffering agent is about 8.0 to about 9.1.

20. The method of one of claim 1 or claim 6 wherein the pH of the pH controlling and buffering agent is about 8.9 to about 9.1.

21. The method of one of claim 1 or claim 6 wherein the pH of the pH controlling and buffering agent is about 8.1 to about 9.2.

22. The method of one of claim 1 or claim 6 wherein the pH of the pH controlling and buffering agent is about 8.2 to about 9.1.

23. The method of one of claim 1 or claim 6 wherein the pH of the pH controlling and buffering agent is about 8.3 to about 9.1.

24. The method of one of claim 1 or claim 6 wherein the pH of the pH controlling and buffering agent is about 8.4 to about 9.1.

25. The method of one of claim 1 or claim 6 wherein the pH of the pH controlling and buffering agent is about 8.5 to about 9.1.

26. The method of one of claim 1 or claim 6 wherein the pH of the pH controlling and buffering agent is about 8.6 to about 9.1.

27. The method of one of claim 1 or claim 6 wherein the pH of the pH controlling and buffering agent is about 8.7 to about 9.1.

28. The method of one of claim 1 or claim 6 wherein the pH of the pH controlling and buffering agent is about 8.8 to about 9.1.

29. The method of one of claim 1 or claim 6 wherein the pH of the pH controlling and buffering agent is about 9.0 to about 9.1.