METHOD OF PURGING A BLOOD PUMP

ABSTRACT

A method of operating a blood pump that is purged with a purge solution that contains a pH controlling and buffering agent combined with aqueous dextrose and a reduced amount of heparin or no heparin. The blood pump has a gap between a shaft and housing through which the purge solution flows. In operation, the purge solution exits the housing and is discharged into the patient. The purge solution is therefore required to perform lubricating and heat transfer functions in the pump yet be biocompatible with the patient.