(19) Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets

(11) Publication number: 0 306 212 B1

(12) EUROPEAN PATENT SPECIFICATION

(45) Date of publication of patent specification: 13.05.92 (51) Int. Cl.5: A61K 9/22

(21) Application number: 88307871.9

(22) Date of filing: 25.08.88

(54) Improved antimicrobial coated implants.

(30) Priority: 31.08.87 US 91075

(43) Date of publication of application:
08.03.89 Bulletin 89/10

(45) Publication of the grant of the patent:
13.05.92 Bulletin 92/20

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE CH DE ES FR GB GR IT LI LU NL SE

(56) References cited:
EP-A- 0 122 709

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EP 0 306 212 B1

Description

This invention relates to improved implant devices. More particularly, this invention relates to an improvement in infection-resistant drug delivery implants. The coatings applied in accordance with this invention are better retained on the implant surface during mechanized implant packaging operations and are effective to prevent infection which may otherwise result after implantation of the device.

The use of controlled-release implants for administering estradiol to ruminant animals has been described in U.S. Patent No. 4,191,741. During implantation of such implants, conditions are typically unsanitary, causing infection which can result in loss of implants. Use of an antibiotic or germicide layer or coating on the surface of the implant to reduce infections and to improve implant retention has been described in U.K. Patent 2 136 688 A. The antibiotic coating facilitates parenteral administration of the implants under non-sterile conditions; requirements for cleaning the implant needle, the site of implantation on the animal, and the implantation device are minimized or eliminated.

It is known that antimicrobial agents can be layered or coated onto the surface of an implant to inhibit infection at the site of implantation. However, some difficulties have been encountered in implementing that technology. Surface-applied antimicrobial agents have been found to be easily dislocated from the surface of the implant by nominal mechanical manipulation of the implants, for example, during automated packaging operations. Loss of the antimicrobial coating dramatically reduces resistance to infection. Labor intensive recoating procedures and manual methods of packaging the antimicrobial coated implants have been employed to assure that implants have effective antimicrobial coatings at the time of administration. Even with added care during the implant manufacturing/packaging process, coating uniformity is difficult to control.

Greater efficiencies in the manufacturing and packaging of implants as well as greater infection resistance at the implantation site would be realized with greater uniformity and implant-adherence of coatings of antimicrobial agents for implants. There is a need in the art for an improved method of coating implants to produce more uniform and more durable antimicrobial coatings on the implant surface, which exhibit good stability during manufacture, handling, and storage, which allow immediate availability of the antimicrobial agents upon implantation and which do not interfere with the function of the implant.

In accordance with the present invention, a silicone fluid is employed to promote uniform adhesion of antimicrobial agents to the surface of an implant. The invention yields many advantages for the production and use of infection resistant implants. Greater efficiencies in implant manufacturing and processing operations are possible. The adherent antimicrobial coating does not easily shake off the implant surface, allowing the implants to be subjected to the more rigorous conditions of automated packaging operations. Redusting or recoating procedures are eliminated. Because the use of present invention results in a more consistent and higher level application of antimicrobial agent, less quality control/analytical time is required during manufacturing operations. Further advantages include improved appearance of the implants and coating consistency. Application of the coating of antimicrobial agent is not affected by normal variations in raw materials.

The present invention is based on the discovery that a silicone fluid can be applied to the exterior surface of an implant to improve the adherence of subsequently applied antimicrobial agents. The silicone fluid has a high affinity for the implant surface and spreads on the surface of the implant to form a thin film. The film serves as a matrix-like carrier for subsequent applied antimicrobial agents, typically in a film-adherent powder or dust form. Antimicrobial agents contacting the silicone fluid layer are partially wetted by the fluid and retained on the surface of the implant.

In a preferred embodiment of the present invention an adherent antimicrobial coating is applied to an implant comprising an anabolic agent in a silicone polymer matrix adapted for sustained-release of the anabolic agent. The silicone fluid does not affect adversely either the safety or efficacy of the implant. The rate of diffusion of the anabolic agent from the implant remains essentially unchanged after coating in accordance with this invention.

The improved implant coatings of this invention comprise a silicone fluid in contact with the surface of the implant and an antimicrobial agent in contact with the silicone fluid. The nature of the implant is not critical to the present invention, however the improved coatings are particularly suited for implants having surfaces formed from biocompatible silicone based polymers. The implants can assume any one of a variety of alternate constructions and can be used for prosthetic purposes or as reservoirs or matrices for the sustained release of biologically active compounds. They can be formed entirely of a silicone polymer, for example by extrusion, molding and/or machining, or they can be fabricated by coating an implant core, constructed of an art-recognized biocompatible implant material or material composite, with a silicone polymer material.

Representative silicone polymers suitable for implant construction are diphenylpolysiloxane, dimethylpolysiloxane (dimethicone), phenylmethylpolysiloxane, trifluoropropylmethylsiloxane, polydimethylsiloxane copolymerized with polyethylene oxide, copolymers of dimethylpolysiloxane and polymethylmethacrylate and mixtures thereof.

Preferred implants which can be coated in accordance with this invention are those constructed in accordance with the disclosure of U.S. Patent No. 4,191,741. The implants described in that patent are designed for the controlled release administration of anabolic agents to ruminant animals. Exemplary of anabolic agents which can be released from such implants are estradiol, anabolic estradiol derivatives, including estradiol dipropanate, estradiol benzoate, estradiol valerate and the like, trenbolone acetate and certain resorcinol lactones including zeranol and zearalenone.

The improved antimicrobial coatings of this invention are applied to implant surfaces by first applying a silicone fluid to form a film in contact with the surface of the implant and subsequently contacting the film-bearing implant surfaces with an antimicrobial agent. Preferably the antimicrobial agent is in a film-adherent powder or dust form. The silicone film has a high affinity for the implant surface and for the antimicrobial agent and serves as a fluid matrix which wets and effectively binds the antimicrobial agent to the implant surface. The effectiveness of the silicone fluids for providing a base for the uniform adherent antimicrobial coatings of this invention derives from its high affinity both for the implant surface and for the antimicrobial agent itself.

Polydimethylsiloxane fluids and vulcanizing polydimethylsiloxane systems have been found to be especially suitable for use in forming the coatings in accordance with this invention. Such fluids are chemically equivalent to the silicone polymers from which the implants are preferably constructed. The silicone fluid therefore does not interfere with or affect implant safety or efficacy. Nor does it affect the availability of the antimicrobial agent at the implantation site.

Generally, the dimethylpolysiloxanes are low volatility liquids having a viscosity such that it will form thin silicone oil coating on the implant surfaces at ambient temperature. Preferred among the several commercially available silicone fluids is a high consistency medical grade fluid sold by Dow Corning Corporation under the designation 360 Medical Fluid. Dow Corning® 360 Medical Fluid is available in viscosities ranging from $2x10^{-5}m^2s^{-1}$ (20 centistokes) to $125x10^{-4}m^2s^{-1}$ (12,500 centistokes) (measured at 25°C (77°F).). Preferably the silicone fluid should have a viscosity range between about $2x10^{-4}$ and about $5x10^{-4}m^2s^{-1}$ (about 200 and about 500 centistokes). A silicone fluid having a viscosity of about $35x10^{-5}m^2s^{-1}$(350 centistokes) has produced excellent results. Silicone oils with such viscosities exhibit a low volatility at room temperature and readily spread across the implant surface to form a thin fluid film in contact with the implant surface.

Implants can be coated with the polydimethylsiloxane liquid using art-recognized coating techniques such as by dipping or spraying. A coating pan can be used and offers advantages where a multiplicity of uniform implants are to be coated in a single batch. The silicone fluid is applied to the implant surface at a rate of about 0.1 to about 0.6 mg per cm^2 of implant surface. The optimum rate of application will depend on the viscosity of the applied fluid and the nature and condition of the implant surface. Where the silicone fluid has a viscosity of about $35x10^{-5}m^2s^{-1}$ (350 centistokes) it is applied to the implant surface at a rate of about 0.2 to about 0.5 mg per cm^2 of implant surface. In a coating pan environment, the silicone fluid can be added to a batch of implants, for example cylindrical implants of uniform size, and will rapidly spread to cover the surfaces of the implants with a thin film of silicone fluid.

The silicone film bearing implants are then contacting with an antimicrobial agent having affinity for the silicone film. Preferably the antimicrobial agent is in the form of a dust or powder which when brought into contact with the film bearing implant surface is partially wetted by the fluid film and thereby effectively bound to the implant surface.

For the purpose of defining this invention, the term antimicrobial agent shall include antibiotic, antimicrobial, antibacterial, germicidal agents and the like. The antimicrobial coating may comprise a combination of antimicrobial agents. Typical antibiotics which may be used in the invention include: aminoglycosides, such as gentamicin, kanamycin, neomycin, paromomycin, streptomycin, or tobramycin; ansamycins, such as rifamycin, or rifampin; cephalosporins, such as cephalexin, cephaloridine, cephalothin, defazolin, cephapirin, cephradine, or cephaloglycin; chloramphenicols; macrolides, such as erythromycin, tylosin, oleandomycin, or spiramycin; penicillins, such as penicillin G & V, phenethicillin, methicillin, oxacillin, cloxacillin, dicloxacillin, floxacillin, nafcillin, ampicillin, amoxicillin, or carbenicillin; suflonamides; tetracyclines, such as tetracycline, oxytetracycline, chlortetracycline, methacycline, demeclocycline, rolitetracycline, doxycycline, or minocycline; trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole; polypeptides, such as bacitracin, polymyxins, tyrothricin, or vancomycin; and miscellaneous antibiotics, such as lincomycin, clindamycin, or spectinomycin. A preferred antibiotic is oxytetracycline hydrochloride (OTC).

Typical germicides which may be used in this invention include phenols; cresols; resorcinols; substituted phenols; aldehydes; benzoic acid; salicyclic acid; iodine; iodophors, such as betadine; chlorophors, such as hypochlorites; peroxides; such as hydrogen peroxide and zinc peroxide; heavy metals and their salts, such as merbromin, silver nitrate, zinc sulfate; surface-active agents, such as benzalkonium chloride; furan derivatives, such as nitrofurazone; sulfur and thiosulfates; salicylanilides; and carbanilides. Preferred germicides include betadine, iodine, silver nitrate and furan derivatives, such as nitrofurazone.

The amount of the antibiotic or germicide to be used to form the present coating varies with the nature of antibiotics or germicides employed and to some extent the method of coating application. For example, the amount of antibiotic can range from about 0.1 mg per cm^2 to about 2.1 mg per cm^2, with the preferred range being from about 0.2 mg to about 0.8 mg per cm^2. The typical range of the amount of germicide used is exemplified by betadine, which has a range of about 0.5 mg to about 5.2 mg per cm^2, and by nitrofurazone, which has a range of about 2.0 µg to about 8.3 µg per cm^2. The preferred ranges of betadine and nitrofurazone are: about 0.5 mg. to about 1.0 mg per cm^2; and about 2.1 µg to about 4.1 µg per cm^2, respectively. Effective amounts of oxytetracycline hydrochloride range from about 0.1 mg to 2.1 mg per cm^2, preferably from about 0.1 to about 1.0 mg per cm^2 and, more preferably, from about 0.14 to about 0.5 mg per cm^2.

Preferably, the antibiotic or germicide is in a particulate or powdered form ranging in particle size from about 325 mesh (45 µm) to about 60 mesh (250 µm) and more preferably from about 325 mesh (45 µm) to about 200 mesh (75 µm). Commercially available antibiotic powders can be milled to produce the desired particle size distribution.

EXAMPLE 1

Implants sold under the trademark COMPUDOSE® 200 were used to evaluate applications of polydimethylsiloxane liquid based coatings of oxytetracycline hydrochloride (OTC). COMPUDOSE® 200 designates an implant which is 3 cm in length and 4.76 mm in diameter. This diameter includes an inert core and a 250 µm coating containing about 24 mg of estradiol, the active ingredient. The surface area is 4.84 cm^2 and the device delivers estradiol continuously for about 200 days. The implant is sold by Elanco Products Company, a Division of Eli Lilly and Company.

Evaluation results are summarized in Table 1. All implants were dusted in a coating pan with OTC at a rate of 2.5 mg OTC/implant. Predusting treatment was varied as follows: no pretreatment in Trials 1 and 2; pretreatment with 1% fumed silica (Aerosil®) in Trial 3; and pretreatment with Dow Corning® 360 Medical Fluid (viscosity = 35×10^{-5} m^2 s^{-1} (350 cs) at 25 • C (77 • F)) for Trials 4-6.

TABLE 1

Oxytetracycline Hydrochloride Retention Results				
Trial	Pre-Dusting Treatment	Visual Observation of OTC Coating	Mean Value mg OTC/Implant	SD[1]
1	None	Uneven OTC Coating	--	--
2	None	Uneven OTC COating	0.8	0.19
3	1% Fumed Silica	Uneven OTC Coating	0.8	0.41
4	2 mg/Implant Silicone Spray	Very Even OTC Coating	1.6	0.15
5	2 mg/Implant Silicone Spray	Very Even OTC Coating	2.7	0.19
6	2 mg/Implant Silicone Spray (added to empty coating pan) followed by implants	Very Even OTC Coating	1.8	0.31
2 Standard deviation from mean value				

1 -- indicates no values reported.

The results demonstrate unequivocally the advantage offered by pretreatment of implants with a film-forming silicone fluid prior to dusting with antibiotic. It not only enhances the overall rate of retention of antibiotic on the implant surface, but it also enhances coating uniformity within the lots of coated implants. Moreover, visual inspection reveals an even coating and one that is retained during manipulation of the implants in automated packaging equipment utilizing vibratory bowls to align and distribute the implants into the individual package cavities.

EXAMPLE 2

Three successive lots of COMPUDOSE® 200 implants (approximately 26,000 implants, each) were coated in accordance with this invention. Treatment consisted of placing the implants in a coating or dusting pan and adding approximately 50 g of dimethicone (2 mg dimethicone/implant) followed by 65 g of oxytetracycline hydrochloride and tumbling until the implants appeared to be uniformly coated. For each of the three lots, implants were randomly selected, packaged, and submitted for evaluation. The results are summarized in Table 2.

TABLE 2

OTC Retention on COMPUDOSE® 200 Implants	
	mg OTC/Implant[1]
Lot 1	1.64
Lot 2	1.61
Lot 3	1.52

[1]Mean value of 10 implants

Claims

1. An implant adapted for the controlled release of an anabolic agent, said implant comprising a silicone polymer matrix, an anabolic agent in said polymer matrix, and an antimicrobial coating, wherein the coating comprises a silicone fluid and an antimicrobial agent in contact with said fluid.

2. An implant as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the anabolic agent is estradiol.

3. An implant as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the antimicrobial agent agent is oxytetracycline hydrochloride.

4. An implant as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 3, wherein the silicone polymer matrix and anabolic agent form a coating surrounding a biocompatible inert core.

5. An implant as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the anabolic agent is estradiol.

6. An implant as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 5, wherein the silicone fluid has a viscosity of about $2x10^{-4}$ to about $5x10^{-4} m^2s^{-1}$ (about 200 to about 500 centistokes).

7. An implant as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 6, wherein the silicone fluid is in contact with the surface of said silicone polymer matrix implant and the antimicrobial agent is in contact with said silicone fluid.

8. A method of preparing an implant adapted for the controlled release of an anabolic agent, comprising coating a silicone polymer matrix, containing an anabolic agent, with an antimicrobial coating, wherein the coating comprises a silicone fluid and an antimicrobial agent in contact with said fluid.

9. A method according to Claim 8 comprising applying a silicone fluid to form a silicone film in contact with the surface of the silicone polymer matrix and then contacting the film-bearing surface with an antimicrobial agent in a film-adherent powder form.

Revendications

1. Implant conçu pour la libération contrôlée d'un agent anabolique, ledit implant comprenant une matrice polymère de silicone, un agent anabolique dans ladite matrice polymère, ainsi qu'un enrobage antimicrobien, dans lequel l'enrobage comprend un fluide de silicone et un agent antimicrobien mis en contact avec ledit fluide.

2. Implant selon la revendication 1, dans lequel l'agent anabolique est l'estradiol.

3. Implant selon la revendication 1, dans lequel l'agent antimicrobien est le chlorhydrate d'oxytétracycline.

4. Implant selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 3, dans lequel la matrice polymère de silicone et l'agent anabolique forment un enrobage entourant un noyau biocompatible inerte.

5. Implant selon la revendication 4, dans lequel l'agent anabolique est l'estradiol.

6. Implant selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 5, dans lequel le fluide de silicone a une viscosité d'environ 2 x 10^{-4} m^2 s^{-1} à environ 5 x 10^{-4} m^2 s^{-1} (d'environ 200 à environ 500 centistokes).

7. Implant selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 6, dans lequel le fluide de silicone est mis en contact avec la surface dudit implant à matrice polymère de silicone et l'agent antimicrobien est mis en contact avec ledit fluide de silicone.

8. Procédé de préparation d'un implant conçu pour la libération contrôlée d'un agent anabolique, consistant à enrober une matrice polymère de silicone contenant un agent anabolique, à l'aide d'un enrobage antimicrobien, dans lequel l'enrobage comprend un fluide de silicone et un agent antimicrobien mis en contact avec ledit fluide.

9. Procédé selon la revendication 8, consistant à appliquer un fluide de silicone pour obtenir une pellicule de silicone qui vient se mettre en contact avec la surface de la matrice polymère de silicone et ensuite à mettre en contact la surface portant la pellicule avec un agent antimicrobien sous la forme d'une poudre adhérant à la pellicule.

Patentansprüche

1. Implantat geeignet für die kontrollierte Freigabe eines ansbolen Mittels, wobei das Implantat eine Silikonpolymermatrix, ein anaboles Mittel in der Polymermatrix und eine antimikrobielle Beschichtung umfaßt, wobei die Beschichtung ein flüssiges Silikon und ein antimikrobielles Mittel, das in Kontakt ist mit dieser Flüssigkeit, umfaßt.

2. Implantat nach Anspruch 1, wobei das anabole Mittel Östradiol ist.

3. Implantat nach Anspruch 1, wobei das antimikrobielle Mittel Oxytetracyclinhydrochlorid ist.

4. Implantat nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 3, wobei die Silikonpolymermatrix und das anabole Mittel eine Beschichtung bilden, die einen biokompatiblen inerten Kern umgibt.

5. Implantat nach Anspruch 4, wobei das anabole Mittel Östradiol ist.

6. Implantat nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 5, wobei das flüssige Silikon eine Viskosität von etwa 2 x 10^{-4} bis etwa 5 x 10^{-4} m^2s^{-1} (etwa 200 bis etwa 500 centistokes) hat.

7. Implantat nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 6, wobei das flüssige Silikon in Kontakt ist mit der Oberfläche der Silikonpolymermatrix des Implantats und das antimikrobielle Mittel in Kontakt ist mit dem flüssigen Silikon.

8. Verfahren zur Herstellung eines Implantats, das geeignet ist für die kontrollierte Freigabe eines anabolen Mittels, umfassend, daß man eine Silikonpolymermatrix, die ein anaboles Mittel enthält, mit einer antimikrobiellen Beschichtung beschichtet, wobei die Beschichtung ein flüssiges Silikon und ein antimikrobielles Mittel, das in Kontakt ist mit der Flüssigkeit, umfaßt.

9. Verfahren nach Anspruch 8, umfassend, daß man ein flüssiges Silikon unter Bildung eines Silikonfilms, der in Kontakt ist mit der Oberfläche der Silikonpolymermatrix, aufbringt und dann die den Film tragende Oberfläche mit einem antimikrobiellen Mittel in einer am Film haftenden Pulverform in Kontakt bringt.

REGISTER ENTRY FOR EP0306212

European Application No EP88307871.9 filing date 25.08.1988

Priority claimed:
31.08.1987 in United States of America - doc: 91075

Designated States BE CH DE ES FR GB GR IT LI LU NL SE AT

Title IMPROVED ANTIMICROBIAL COATED IMPLANTS.

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Classified to
A61K

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Publication No EP0306212 dated 08.03.1989
Publication in English

Examination requested 03.09.1988

Patent Granted with effect from 13.05.1992 (Section 25(1)) with title IMPROVED ANTIMICROBIAL COATED IMPLANTS.

05.02.1990 EPO: Search report published on 07.03.1990
Entry Type 25.11 Staff ID. Auth ID. EPT

**** END OF REGISTER ENTRY ****

RENEWAL DETAILS

PUBLICATION NUMBER EP0306212

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DATE FILED 25.08.1988

DATE GRANTED 13.05.1992

DATE NEXT RENEWAL DUE 25.08.1995

DATE NOT IN FORCE

DATE OF LAST RENEWAL 07.07.1994

YEAR OF LAST RENEWAL 07

STATUS PATENT IN FORCE

**** END OF REPORT ****