Hemodialysis with Polycarbonate Membrane

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Kolff in selecting a cellulosic membrane for his first clinical experiments with dialysis did so on empirical grounds. His selection proved to be of such quality that today more than 90% of dialyses throughout the world are conducted with cellulosic membranes in general.

Cupro-phan in particular. These membranes are comparatively inexpensive. Present-day cupro-phan reflects the intense efforts of its manufacturer to make it the very best of transporting membranes. Recent concern about unphysiologic events stemming from blood/membrane interaction as a result of the triggering by dialysis membranes of the complement system provided the stimulus for an orderly examination of less commonly...
used dialysis membranes 
that are free 
of this troublesome 
property. Cellulose acetate 

polymethylmethacrylate have proven 
intermediate between cuprophane 

polyacrylonitrile membranes with 
the latter showing 
the least complement 
activation. It is 
with this background 
that renewed interest 
in 

polycarbonate membrane for dialysis has occurred. The editors have recently reviewed a series 
of presentations concerning this membrane and felt that the information presented was of 
sufficient quality and interest for our readership to warrant publication. As such this issue of our 
journal is devoted to the proceedings of a meeting that was held in Amsterdam on September 13 
and 14, 1985 dealing with the properties of this new dialysis membrane. Comments relating to 
the presentation have been edited in to provide perspective on the presentations. It is likely that 
with the release of polycarbonate membranes for routine use in clinical dialysis both in Europe 
and North America more reports on its performance will be forthcoming in the near future. What 
we present to you here is a preview of its performance.