Tissuepatch is biocompatible and seals iatrogenic membrane defects in a rabbit model

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1 **Tissuepatch is biocompatible and seals iatrogenic membrane defects in a**
2 **rabbit model**

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4 **Running title:** Tissuepatch as new sealant for iatrogenic membrane defects

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What's already known about this topic?

- Iatrogenic PPROM is a major risk factor of fetoscopic procedures
- So far used sealants are not efficient to prevent iPPROM
- Further research is needed

What does this study add?

- We screened five sealants for biocompatibility and efficacy to seal fetal membrane defects
- Tissuepatch® was biocompatible and had a good efficacy
- Tissuepatch® could be used in open fetal surgery to prevent iPPROM

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60 **Abstract**

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62 **Objective:** To evaluate novel sealing techniques for their biocompatibility and sealing capacity of

63 iatrogenic fetal membrane defects in a pregnant rabbit model.

64 **Method:** At day 23 of gestation (term=d31), a standardized fetoscopy was performed through a 14G

65 cannula. The resulting fetal membrane defect was closed with either condensed collagen, collagen

66 with fibrinogen, Tissuepatch®, Duraseal®, or a conventional collagen plug (Lyostypt®) as reference. At

67 d30 the fetuses were harvested and full thickness fetal membrane samples were analyzed. The study

68 consisted of two consecutive parts: (1) biocompatibility testing by fetal survival, apoptosis and

69 infiltration of polymorphonuclear cells in the membranes; (2) the efficacy to seal fetal membrane

70 defects.

71 **Results:** Three sealants (collagen with fibrinogen, Duraseal® or Lyostypt®) were associated with a

72 higher fetal mortality compared to control unmanipulated littermates, and hence were excluded

73 from further analysis. Tissuepatch® was biocompatible and amniotic fluid levels were comparable to

74 those of control untouched littermates. Compared to the condensed collagen, Tissuepatch® was also

75 easier in surgical handling and induced limited cell proliferation.

76 **Conclusion:** Tissuepatch® had the best biocompatibility and efficacy in sealing an iatrogenic fetal

77 membrane defect in the pregnant rabbit compared to other readily available sealants.

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81 **Introduction**
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83 Fetal membrane rupture remains the Achilles' heel of fetal surgery, occurring in around 28% of laser

84 interventions for twin-twin transfusion syndrome (TTTS) and around 47% of fetoscopic endoluminal

85 tracheal occlusion (FETO) for congenital diaphragmatic hernia (CDH) [1,2]. Therefore, several strategies

86 to either treat or prevent membrane rupture have been proposed [3–6].

87 Primary prevention of preterm premature rupture of membranes (PPROM) at the time of fetal

88 surgery would be a useful approach. To our knowledge, only collagen and gelatin plugs have been

89 used clinically for this purpose, however with contradicting results [7–9]. Clinical studies on potential

90 new solutions are difficult to perform as "first-in-man" studies in pregnancy are challenging, using

91 products that are or would be used off label. It is important to analyze the healing site histologically,

92 and to set up a controlled study which is adequately powered. *In vivo* animal studies are hence vital

93 to allow researchers to explore new solutions. The optimal candidate surgical solution to us, should

94 ideally have the following features: (1) the device or material should be readily available and (2)

95 clinically applicable through a 10 Fr, preferentially also an 8 Fr cannula, either as is or after

96 modification. (3) The material should have the ability to be bio-activated and/or (4) to function as a

97 transport of molecular therapeutics to interfere with, apart from the defect, other potential

98 biomolecular mechanism behind iatrogenic PPROM (iPPROM) [10]."

99 Herein we report on four novel sealant techniques which we compared to the conventional collagen

100 plugs (Lyostypt®) as a reference sealant in the study. One sealant is a condensed collagen, which has

101 been tissue engineered from human fetal membranes and which demonstrated good growth-

102 support of amnion epithelial cells [11]. The second sealant is an off-the-shelf collagen (Lyostypt®)

103 imbued with fibrinogen. This was tested before *in vitro* in human amniotic membranes and showed

104 improved sealing capabilities [12]. The third sealant is Tissuepatch® which is a thin film and clinically is

105 used to obtain an airtight sealant in thoracoscopic surgeries. The fourth sealant is Duraseal®, which is

106 used in neurosurgery for sealing dura mater defects and preventing cerebrospinal fluid leakage [13].

107 We tested those sealants *in vivo* for their biocompatibility (safety) and their efficacy to seal a fetal

108 membrane defect in a pregnant rabbit model for fetoscopy.

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110   **Material and Methods**

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112   *Study design*

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114   The study design is shown in Supplementary Figure 1. Pregnant rabbits underwent a laparotomy at

115   23 days of gestation under general anaesthesia, three fetuses out of the total litter were operated on

116   and assigned to one of 5 types of fetal membrane sealant or positive control (no sealant); the

117   remaining fetuses acted as negative unoperated controls. One week later, pregnancies were

118   evaluated for fetal survival, the primary outcome variable of the biocompatibility testing. Secondary

119   outcomes were inflammation and apoptosis. Sealants performing best in the primary outcome

120   measure were further tested for efficacy, i.e. by the deepest vertical pocket (DVP) on ultrasound at

121   term. Further secondary outcomes were ease of surgical handling at the time of sealant insertion,

122   and what were considered as additional efficacy outcome measures such as amniotic fluid leakage,

123   persistence of the plug, Ki67 positive cells and the ratio of vimentin and cytokeratin as a marker for

124   epithelial-mesenchymal transition (EMT). The lung-to-bodyweight ratio (LBWR) of the fetus was

125   quantified as a further efficacy measure to assess pulmonary hypoplasia.

126   *Animal and surgical protocols*

127

128   This experiment was approved by the local Ethics committee of KU Leuven (P250/2014) and animals

129   were handled according to the current guidelines on animal welfare. Time mated pregnant does

130   (hybrid of New Zealand and Dendermonde) were housed at the animalium of the group Biomedical

131   Sciences in separate cages on a 12-hour light cycle with free access to food and water. At 23 days of

132   gestational age (GA; term = 31 days) the doe was sedated with intramuscular ketamine 35 mg/kg

133   bodyweight (BW) (Ketamine 1000 CEVA; CEVA Santé Animal, Brussels, Belgium) and xylazin 6 mg/kg

134   BW (Vexylan®; CEVA Santé Animal). Buprenorphine 0.03 mg/kg (Vetergesic®; Reckitt Benckiser

135   Healthcare, Brussels, Belgium), medroxyprogesterone acetate (Depo-Provera, Pfizer, Puurs, Belgium)

136   and penicillin G (Kela Pharma, Hoogstraten, Belgium) were injected subcutaneously. General

137   anesthesia was maintained using isoflurane 1.5% (Isoba® Vet; Abbott Laboratories Ltd.,

138   Queensborough, Kent, UK) in oxygen at 2 L/minute via a facemask. Maternal vital parameters were

139   monitored with a pulse oxymeter (Nellcor® N- 20P; Nellcor Inc., Haasrode, Belgium). Physiologic body

140   temperature was maintained by a heating pad.

141   The doe was placed in the supine position, the abdomen was shaved and disinfected with povidone

142   iodine (Isobetadine®; Asta Medica, Brussels, Belgium) and covered with sterile drapes. After midline

143   laparotomy, the uterus was exposed and the fetal sacs counted. We operated on three fetuses in

144   each litter, i.e. both ovarian end fetuses and one more in the horn with the highest number of

145   fetuses, leaving one unoperated fetus in between. In case of equal numbers of fetuses in both horns,

146 a random side was chosen. First a small myometrial incision of 3-4 mm was made on the anti-

147 mesometrial side. Blunt dissection of the chorion was performed to gain access to the amnion and to

148 avoid damage to the vitelline vessels (Figure 1A). After exposure of the amniotic membrane, it was

149 punctured with a 14 G Cannula (Braun Medical N.V., Diegem, Belgium) at a perpendicular angle and a

150 standardized diagnostic fetoscopy of fixed duration (2 min) was performed with a 1.0 mm

151 embryoscope (11510A, Karl Storz, Tutlingen, Germany) within a 1.3 mm examination sheath

152 (11510KA, Karl Storz) (Supplementary Video 1, Figure 1B), as previously described [14]. By using this

153 type of diameter instruments, the defect was large enough (around 1.3 mm) to surgically introduce

154 the sealant.

155 The gestational sacs were randomly assigned to one of the following treatment groups: (1) Lyostypt®

156 (B. Braun Medical N.V.), (2) Lyostypt® soaked in fibrinogen concentrate (Haemocomplettan®, CSL

157 Behring, Breda, The Netherlands), (3) condensed collagen, (4) Tissuepatch® (Tissuemed Ltd, Leeds,

158 United Kingdom), (5) Duraseal® (Integra LS N.V., Zaventem, Belgium) or (6) positive controls (SHAM

159 surgery without sealant). The sealant was positioned in or over the amnion defect. The collagen

160 sealants were fixed within the defect by a single stitch 6-0 Prolene to the fetal membranes and the

161 myometrium (Ethicon, Johnson & Johnson Medical N.V., Diegem, Belgium). Tissuepatch® was fixed

162 on the inside of the amniotic cavity with its self-adhesive side to the amnion epithelium with two 6-0

163 Prolene sutures to the fetal membranes and the myometrium. Duraseal® was sprayed upon the

164 amniotic defect. Any problem with proper placement of the plug, or any discordant opinion on

165 appropriate plug positioning by the surgeons (ACE and LJ) were categorized as problematic. The

166 unoperated gestation sacs were used as negative controls. The myometrium was closed with 3 single

167 stitches with 6-0 Prolene suture (Figure 1D). The doe's abdominal wall was closed in two layers with

168 2-0 Vicryl (Ethicon) for the muscular layer and 3-0 Ethilon (Ethicon) for the intracutaneous skin

169 suture.

170 At 30 days GA, the does were premedicated and anesthetized as above. Micro-ultrasound (Vevo®

171 2100 System, Visual Sonics, Toronto) was used to assess the deepest vertical pocket (DVP) and

172 determine fetal survival. After that, macroscopic amniotic fluid leakage at the operated area was

173 evaluated with blotting paper (3x1 cm, 125 g/m^2, Aurora Productions SA, Turnhout, Belgium) for 10

174 seconds after drying the area with surgical gauze. Thereafter the does and fetuses were euthanized

175 with an intravenous bolus of a mixture of embutramide 200 mg, mebezonium 50 mg, and tetracaine

176 hydrochloride 5 mg (0,3 mL/kg T61; Marion Roussel Hoechst, Brussels, Belgium) and samples were

177 obtained.

178 *Harvesting and sample preparation*

179   We identified the entry point to the fetal sac by the marking suture and pre-elevated it "en bloc"

180   (amnion, chorion and myometrium; further referred to as FM sample). Persistence or absence of the

181   plug in the myometrium and/or the fetal membranes was macroscopically assessed from the inside

182   of the amniotic cavity. FM samples of surviving fetuses were stored in tissue embedding cassettes

183   (Simport, Beloeil, Quebec, Canada) on foam biopsy pads (Leica Biosystems N.V., Maarn, The

184   Netherlands) and submerged in 4% buffered paraformaldehyde (PFA) (Klinipath BV, Duiven, The

185   Netherlands) for 24 hours. They were then transferred to 70% ethanol and embedded in paraffin. At

186   necropsy, the fetus and its lungs were weighed and the LBWR was calculated.

Histology and semi-automatic quantification

188   Paraffin blocks were cut in 4-μm sections displaying the area of the defect. Staining with hematoxylin

189   and eosin (H&E) was performed and an average score from 3 high power fields per slide (x40

190   magnification) around the defect was calculated for polymorphonuclear cell (PMN) infiltration as

191   previously described [15]. Immunohistochemistry (IHC) for Ki67, Vimentin and Cytokeratin was

192   performed according to standard IHC protocols as described before [16]. TUNEL staining (In Situ Cell

193   Death Detection Kit, Fluorescein; Roche Diagnostics GmbH, Mannheim, Germany), detecting

194   apoptotic cells, was performed according to the producer's recommendations with DAPI as a

195   background staining. Ki67 was quantified to assess cell proliferation. The presence of EMT was

196   investigated by an IHC vimentin/cytokeratin ratio.

197   IHC and TUNEL positive cell density measurements were performed semi-automatically, using ImageJ

198   software (v1.48, NIH, USA). From each slide, 3 random non-overlapping images were recorded

199   (Axioskop; Carl Zeiss) at ×40 magnification at the contact-area between sealant and tissue. An

200   average density was calculated for each slide and presented as mean ± standard deviation (SD). The

201   digital color images were segmented, and Ki67, Vimentin and Cytokeratin staining was quantified.

202   The total number of cells as well as the amount of positively stained cells was determined, and the

203   density was expressed as a percentage (positive cell area/total area of cells). TUNEL staining was

204   expressed as a percentage of TUNEL positive cells/ DAPI positive cells.

Statistics

206   Statistical analysis was performed with SPSS® Statistics software v21.0. (IBM®, Company). A p-value

207   of <0.05 was considered significant. Continuous variables were tested for normal distribution by

208   Kolmogorov-Smirnov test and expressed as mean and standard deviation (SD). Binomial and ordinal

209   variables were expressed as percentage and score, respectively. One-way ANOVA with Tukey post-

210   hoc analysis was used to compare normally distributed continuous variables and Kruskal-Wallis test

211 for non-normally distributed continuous variables. Chi-square test was used for binomial and ordinal

212 variables. The investigational groups were compared to the negative controls. Positive controls were

213 used as reference, if no negative control group was included in the outcome. Lyostypt® was used as

214 reference for surgical handling readouts (Supplementary Table 1). Statistical results are represented

215 in APA (American Psychological Association) style. Power calculation was performed with StatMate

216 v2.0 (GraphPad, San Diego, California, USA) according to the published literature [4], we calculated that

217 a sample size of 9 fetuses/group would provide a power of ≥85% with a 5% two-sided type I error to

218 detect a 20% difference in fetal survival.

219

220 **Results**
221

222 A total of 35 does and 332 fetuses were included in the study. There were 231 unmanipulated

223 control fetuses, 18 in the Lyostypt® group, 14 in the condensed collagen group, 25 in the collagen +

224 fibrinogen group, 13 in the Tissuepatch® group, 15 in the Duraseal® group and 16 in the unsealed

225 positive control group.

226 Overall, fetal survival in unsealed sacs tended to be lower (75%) than in unmanipulated control sacs

227 (91%), yet that did not reach statistical significance (χ^2_1=3,478; p=0,082, Table 1). Two sealants had

228 no effect on fetal survival when compared to unmanipulated control sacs: Condensed collagen

229 (11/14, 78%; χ^2_1=1,831; p=0,175) and Tissuepatch® 10/13, 77%; χ^2_1=2,225; p=0,149). Sealing with

230 three of the used strategies was associated with a reduced fetal survival compared to negative

231 controls, i.e. Lyostypt® (13/18, 72%; χ^2_1=5,314; p=0,038), collagen + fibrinogen (12/25, 48%;

232 χ^2_1=32,996; p<0,001) and Duraseal® (9/15, 60%; χ^2_1=12,226; p=0,004, Table 1). However, in sacs of

233 surviving fetuses from these three sealant groups, there was no difference with positive controls in

234 terms of inflammation (number of PMN) (χ^2_{12}=13,067; p=0,364), or TUNEL positive cells (F=2,135;

235 p=0,056) (Figure 2 and Table 1).

236 Pregnancies sealed using condensed collagen and Tissuepatch® underwent further efficacy testing.

237 Tissuepatch® sealed sacs had a DVP comparable to that of normal controls (4,64 ± 2,24 vs 6,93 ±3,80)

238 but condensed collagen sealed sacs had a significantly lower DVP at harvesting (1,89 ± 1,30; F=8,638;

239 p<0,001). There was a 10% amniotic fluid leakage rate (n=1/10) in the Tissuepatch® group which was

240 significantly less than the condensed collagen group (n=6/11) and the positive controls (n=6/12;

241 χ^2_1=4,023; p=0,045). It was also easier to insert Tissuepatch® than the condensed collagen plug with

242 less problems at plug insertion (χ^2_{12}=179,535; p<0,001). There was no difference in macroscopic

243 persistence of the sealing materials used (χ^2_1=11,399; p=0,~~442~~39). Remarkably, there were no

244 differences in LBWR between any of the four groups (F=1,417; p=0,213). The degree of cell

245 proliferation (Ki67), was higher in the Tissuepatch® group than in negative controls (3,03, ± 1,81

246 versus 1,23 ± 0,72; F=4,575; p<0,001). There was no difference in the proportion of cells staining for

247 vimentin or cytokeratin (EMT) between the treatment groups, positive or negative controls (F=1,804;

248 p=0,106) (Figure 3 and Table 1). Single electron microscopy (SEM) images were taken from the

249 Lyostypt® and condensed collagen plugs to compare the structure of the two sealants and revealed a

250 smaller diameter, higher density and better alignment of collagen fibers in the condensed collagen

251 (Supplementary Figure 2).

252

Discussion

Herein we compared 4 new techniques to seal iatrogenic fetal membrane defects in a fetoscopy rabbit model in terms of biocompatibility and efficacy with a previously used technique of Lyostypt®. Three of the sealants were associated with a higher rate of fetal demise compared to non-operated control pregnancies. Tissuepatch® and condensed collagen were the only sealants that had similar results to non-operated controls in the primary outcome variable of fetal survival, but Tissuepatch® proved easier to manipulate surgically and induced limited cell proliferation.

We first screened candidate sealants for the most direct adverse effect, i.e. fetal death. In the group of products initially screened yet later disqualified, the fetal death rate ranged from 28 to 52%, versus a death rate of around 25% in positive controls. The latter loss rate is in line with previous studies, confirming reproducibility of the model [4,16]. At the same time, it indicates a frailty of the model due to anesthesia and manipulation of the uterus and its contents. The increased death rate in three of the sealant treatment groups would therefore suggest an additional factor besides fetoscopy as potential cause of death. Histological examination did not demonstrate any increased apoptosis or infiltration of polymorphonuclear cells in the membranes of these three sealant groups. With the current design, we were unable to investigate precisely the cause and timing of fetal death as there was only one time point of fetal viability evaluation, to limit repeated anaesthesia in the does. In the collagen + fibrinogen group there was a higher (>50%) death rate, yet no obvious factor explaining that excess could be identified. Potential explanations are local fibrin formation, when fibrinogen gets in contact with the amniotic fluid. Such increased mortality was already described in earlier experiments, where fibrin glue was used [18]. The exact mechanism behind that remains unclear. The fetal survival in the Duraseal® group was also lower. Again, we did not find a direct explanation on necropsy or histology in that group. Potentially it ties to the injectable nature of the product or its expanding nature [19]. During injection components of the glue can freely and excessively enter the amniotic cavity and may have direct effects on the fetus.

We then moved into further experimentation with Tissuepatch® and condensed collagen, to study efficacy. Condensed collagen plug created unfortunate problems at surgical plug insertion despite its good biocompatibility. Problems associated with insertion of the condensed collagen plug included structural break down of the plug during surgical manipulation and difficulties at suturing, which influenced further readouts. Tissuepatch® sealed sacs had a DVP in the normal range and obvious leakage rate was low, within the range of intact sacs of unmanipulated controls. Macroscopically the plug seemed well locked to the sealing site by sutures. On histological examination, we did not see direct evidence of integration and / or healing response despite an elevated proportion of Ki67 positive cells in the Tissuepatch group compared to negative controls. During the fixation of the

288 sealing site in PFA, Tissuepatch® dissolves partly, making it impossible to trace the initial borders and

289 integrity of the plug. Indirectly however, there was no evidence for much interaction between the

290 plug and the sealing product, as we did not see an increase in proliferation, signs of inflammation nor

291 apoptotic effect around the sealing site. It is therefore not impossible that the effect of this product

292 being sutured into a fetoscopic defect, was merely mechanical plugging, yet without causing direct

293 local inflammatory or fetal side effects. Assuming the efficacy of Tissuepatch®, one could speculate

294 on how this would be clinically translated. This would obviously be an off-label use, yet it is an FDA

295 approved product for visceral pleura sealing. The patch has a self-adhesive visceral side, yet we could

296 not take advantage of this in this model and still needed to fix the patch as the adhesive properties in

297 under water conditions are not documented. A more intuitive clinical application would be to use

298 this patch in open fetal surgeries where suturing to the amnion would be feasible.

299 This study has some limitations, particularly when comparing the rabbit model of fetal membrane

300 sealing with human pregnancy. The myometrial thickness and contractility as well as the resealing

301 capabilities of the rabbit amnion are different from those in women [20]. Also, there is the difference of

302 the application method one can use in this animal model and what would be possible in the clinical

303 situation. The size difference of the defect makes surgical applications of sealants more difficult

304 compared to the clinical situation. In clinical fetoscopy it is also not possible to place a sealant on the

305 chorionic side of the amnion, which is possible in the rabbit model as amnion, chorion and uterine

306 wall are not attached to each other. Also in this experiment, there was a clear relationship between

307 difficulties handling properties and later efficacy. So, it is possible that we underestimate efficacy of

308 certain methods because they are difficult to insert in a rabbit. As the application technique itself

309 was not a focus of our study, one would need to investigate products in another model that is better

310 simulating clinical circumstances. The choice for some readouts may also need to be questioned. For

311 instance, we assessed EMT, because it was earlier named to be relevant in human amnion samples

312 from clinical fetoscopies [21]. EMT is a key-component of wound healing, and we speculated that it

313 would point to local regeneration. Herein we could not demonstrate any change in EMT between any

314 of the groups, questioning it as an outcome measure in this model. In retrospect, we could have

315 included other readouts such as fetal systemic inflammation to understand adverse effects more

316 effectively, or could have followed up on fetuses postoperatively to determine the GA at intra-

317 uterine fetal death. This study also involved several subjective outcome measures. No matter how

318 much we tried to make our readouts as objective as possible, they are not free of a certain amount of

319 operator bias. Lastly, some of our observations were not in line with other studies using the same

320 model. For instance we did not find a decrease of LBWR due to the decreased amniotic fluid [22].

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321   On the other hand, our study had strengths, we observed that many other outcomes were similar to

322   what was demonstrated earlier (survival rate, outcomes in positive and negative controls, and the

323   amniotic fluid). This would suggest that findings in the rabbit model are reproducible. Also, we

324   explored several methods, many of them clinically conceivable. The numbers of animals used are

325   high compared to previous studies and our study was adequately powered. The microscopic

326   readouts were done semi-automatically.

327   In summary, this study provides experimental evidence that Tissuepatch® has the best combination

328   of biocompatibility, surgical ease and efficacy in sealing an iatrogenic fetal membrane defect in the

329   pregnant rabbit compared to other sealants. However, the current formulation of Tissuepatch® is not

330   easy to insert fetoscopically in an effective way. Therefore, our quest into an effective and clinically

331   usable and approved sealing technique is ongoing.

332

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404 **Figure legend**

405 Figure 1: Photographs of the surgical procedure. (A) Opening of the myometrium and chorion. View
406 on amnion before puncturing. (B) Fetoscopic view of fetal front limb. (C) Insertion of a collagen plug
407 while withdrawing the cannula. (D) Closure of the myometrium.

408 Figure 2: Results of TUNEL staining displayed along with two microscopic images of TUNEL stainings
409 at x40 magnification. DAPI was used as background staining (blue).

410 Figure 3: Graphical results of the efficacy testing. Results of the second part of the study that were
411 retrieved as percentage are displayed in table 1.

412

413 **Table legend**

414 Table 1: Results for each variable and each sealant are given including the significance level. Results
415 are presented as percentages or as mean with standard deviation (SD) where appropriate. P-values
416 were calculated by cross-tables including all groups. PMN = polymorphonuclear cell infiltration.

417

418 **Supplementary**

419 Supplementary Figure 1: Workflow of the study.

420 Supplementary Figure 2: Comparison of condensed collagen vs Lyostypt® by single electron
421 microscopy (SEM) shows a a smaller diameter, higher density and better alignment of collagen fibers
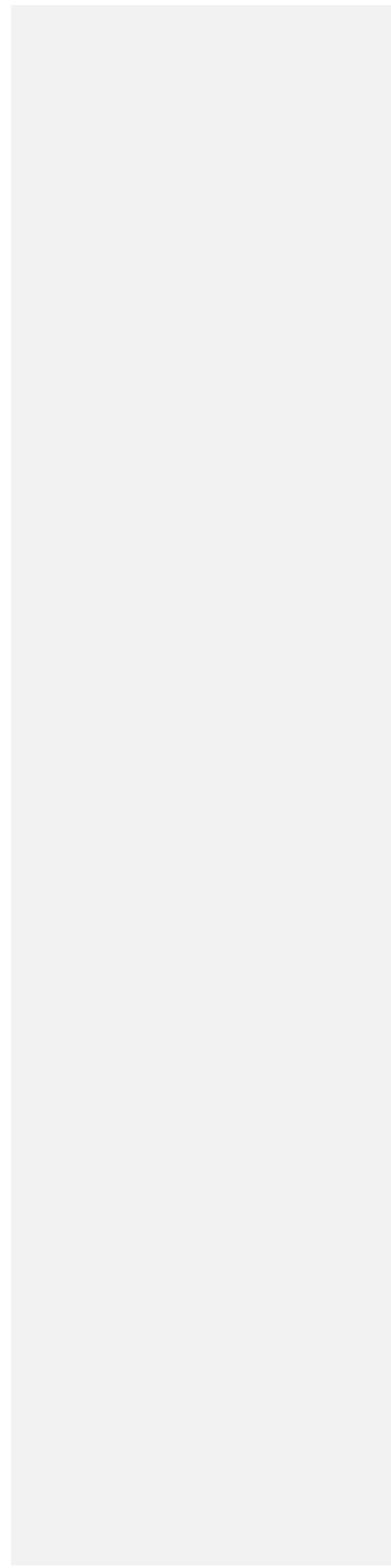422 in the condensed collagen compared to Lyostypt®.

423 Supplementary Video 1: Video of rabbit fetoscopy.

424 Supplementary Table 1: Statistical tests with normal distribution and used reference group for all
425 readouts.

426

Figure 1: Photographs of the surgical procedure. (A) Opening of the myometrium and chorion. View‼ ⊹ 317 on amnion before puncturing. (B) Fetoscopic view of fetal front limb. (C) Insertion of a collagen plug‼ ⊹ 318 while withdrawing the cannula. (D) Closure of the myometrium.

Figure 2: Results of TUNEL staining displayed along with two microscopic images of TUNEL stainings‼ ┼ 320 at x40 magnification. DAPI was used as background staining (blue).

150x126mm (300 x 300 DPI)

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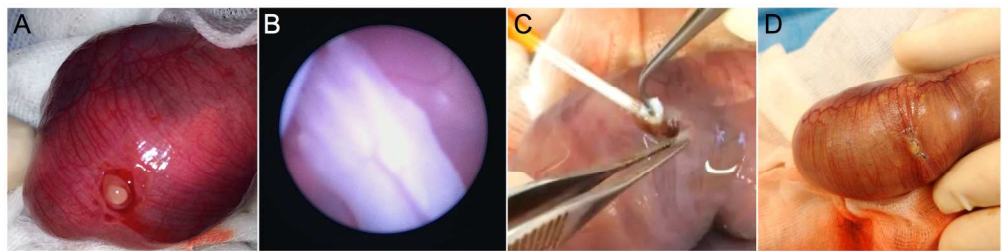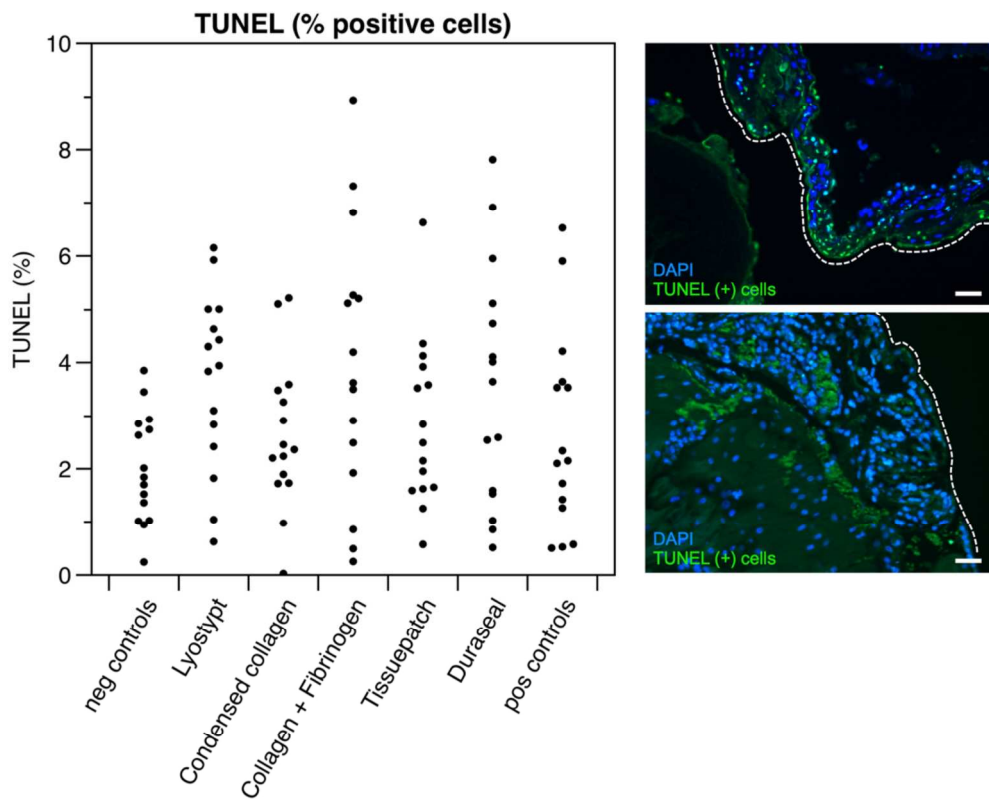42
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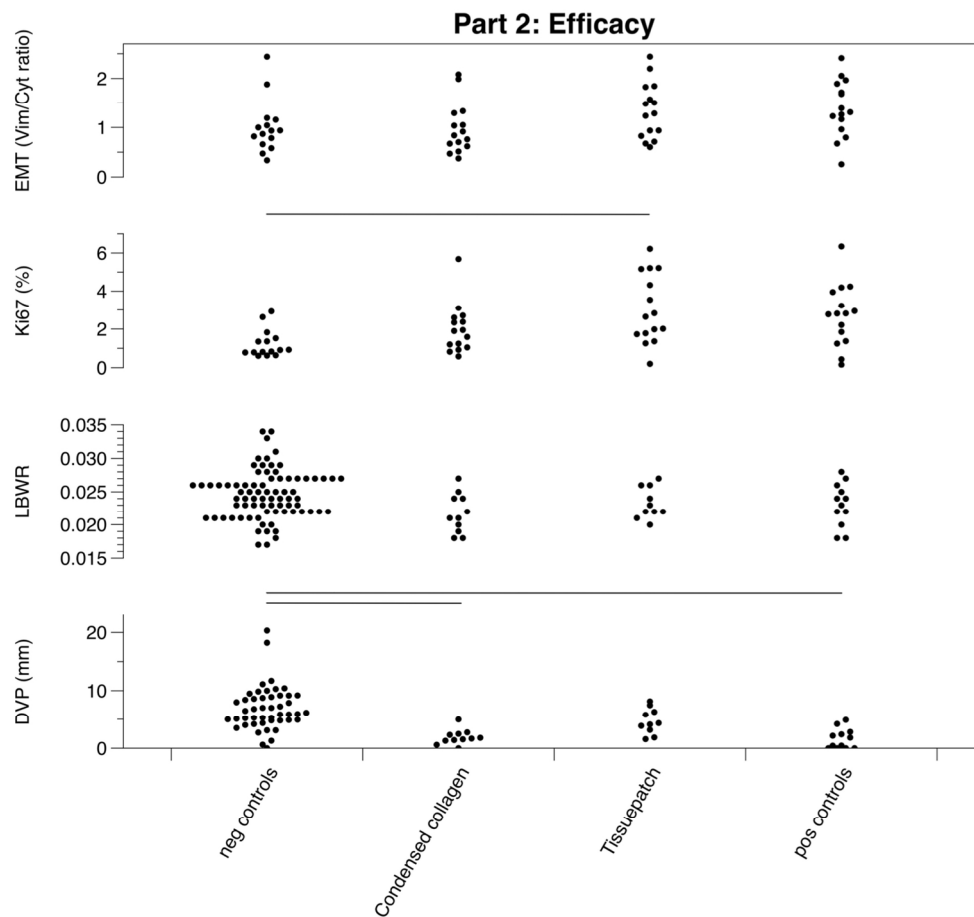52
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Figure 3: Graphical results of the efficacy testing. Results of the second part of the study that were‼ ┼ 322 retrieved as percentage are displayed in table 1.

165x151mm (300 x 300 DPI)

Part 1: Biocompatibility:

Readout	Neg controls	Lyostypt	Condensed collagen	Coll+Fibr	Tissuepatch	Duraseal	Pos controls	P-value
Fetal survival (%)	208/231(91%)	13/18 (72%)*	11/14 (78%)	12/25 (48%)*	10/13 (77%)	9/15 (60%)*	12/16 (75%)	<0,001
PMNs (mean score)	0,73 (±0,458)	1,00 (±0,378)	0,80 (±0,414)	1,00 (±0,535)	0,80 (±0,414)	1,13 (±0,352)	0,87 (±0,352)	0,364
TUNEL (%)	2,01 (±1,03)	3,67 (±1,67)	2,61 (±1,39)	3,93 (±2,56)	2,81 (±1,56)	3,53 (±2,27)	2,66 (±1,87)	0,056

Part 2: Efficacy:

Readout	Neg controls	Condensed collagen	Tissuepatch	Pos controls	P-value
DVP (mm)	6,93 (±3,80)	1,89 (±1,30)*	4,68 (±2,24)	1,60 (±1,73)*	<0,001
Fluid leakage (%)	-	6/11 (55%)	1/10 (10%)*	6/12 (50%)	<0,001
Problems at plug insertion (%)	-	5/11 (45%)*	1/10 (10%)	-	<0,001
Persistence of plug (%)	-	7/11 (64%)	9/10 (90%)	-	0,449
LBWR (ratio)	0,025 ± 0,003	0,022 ± 0,002	0,023 ± 0,002	0,023± 0,003	0,213
Ki67 (%)	1,23 (±0,722)	2,00 (±1,274)	3,03 (±1,805)*	2,70 (±1,609)	<0,001
Vim/Cyt (ratio)	1,00 (±0,536)	0,97 (±0,512)	1,33 (±0,568)	1,38 (±0,579)	0,106

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