

Contributing to both patients and the earth through high permeability Cellulose-derived artificial kidney hollow fiber membrane unique to Toyobo



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The life science business's products are involved in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases, contributing to patients and society. Hollow fiber membranes are a core product of the business. Since the late 1970s, we have engaged in development of hollow fiber membranes for seawater desalination. We developed artificial kidney hollow fiber membranes as one of the applications and launched full-scale production in 1984. For four decades years since then, we have provided artificial kidney hollow fiber membranes for ever-increasing numbers of dialysis patients. The product features two main strengths. First, it boasts outstanding waste removal performance with little change over time during dialysis, thanks to our proprietary film-forming technology. Second, it features outstanding biocompatibility, with few cases of allergies. While general dialysis membranes are made from petroleum-derived materials, our cellulose triacetate (CTA) membrane uses natural cellulose from cotton as its starting material. This confers the advantage of very few patients experiencing allergic reactions during treatment due to conversion of hydroxy groups that affect patients to acetate. Our precise control of the membrane surface further prevents clogging and thus a lower likelihood of pressure fluctuations during dialysis, letting patients undergo treatment with confidence.

We are now working with NIPRO Corporation to build a new plant capable of integrated production that spans hollow fiber manufacturing to processing into dialyzers (filtration devices) and commercialization, with the start of operation scheduled for July 2024.

We have also extended our film-forming technology to other treatments and developed concentrated ascites reinfusion therapy (CART) membranes in 2020. These membranes see application in treatment that filters ascites accumulated due to conditions such as cancer and cirrhosis of the liver, then collects beneficial proteins with a concentrator and returns them to the patient's body. We are also advancing development of acute blood purification membranes for patients with conditions including sepsis, with delivery to patients planned for fiscal 2024.



Illustration of Dialyzer using Toyobo's CTA membrane