Safety Filters & Spreading Media
Open Mesh and Hydrophilic Solutions
Sefar Healthcare Solutions

SEFAR MEDIFAB® open mesh fabrics are woven structures composed of monofilament yarns, typically polyester (PET) and polyamide (PA). The materials are FDA-compliant and are utilized for medical filtrations and diagnostic applications.

SEFAR MEDIFAB® fabrics pass all relevant biocompatibility tests of USP Class VI and ISO 10993. In addition certified tests prove that SEFAR MEDIFAB® fabrics are non-cytotoxic, non-hemolytic, non-pyrogenic and show no sensitization.

These highly precise and biocompatible filter fabrics are known for their high throughput rates and excellent particle retention efficiencies. Sefar offers the widest available selection of materials in many different weave types and fabrications.

The SEFAR MEDITEX® product lines offer solutions for healthcare applications with specific requirements. Characteristics of these media include properties such as hydrophilic surfaces (HPL), a specific color (COL), multiple layers (ACC), or structures such as knitted fabrics (KNT). All functional and biocompatible properties are tailored according to customer’s requirements.

Continuous innovation, superior manufacturing processes, a global distribution system and short response times make Sefar the leading supplier of filter components for medical devices. With all processes being certified according to ISO 9001 and ISO 13485 along with an ISO 14644 class 7 cleanroom converting, the major medical device manufacturers choose Sefar’s products and worldwide partnership.
During open-heart surgery, a complex system of medical devices temporarily replaces heart and lung functions. Vital components of this extra-corporal circuit (also called heart-lung machine or cardio-pulmonary bypass) are very precise filters integrated into the venous/cardio-reservoirs, oxygenator arterial filters and blood bags.

Sefar’s precision woven monofilament fabrics are the industry standards for cardio devices and help guarantee patient safety.

High throughput rates, precise mesh openings and proven biocompatibility of Sefar filters contribute to the excellent reliability and performance of the extra-corporal circuit.

**Cardiotomy Reservoirs**

**Blood Bags**

Cardiotomy reservoirs and blood bags are central devices of the extra-corporal blood circuit used during open-heart surgery. The filter fabrics inside these devices serve as highly-precise security filters to reliably block particulate emboli as well as microscopic air bubbles and blood clots.

**Oxygenators**

**Venous Reservoirs**

During cardio-pulmonary bypass surgery the oxygenator replaces the lung’s function by enriching the circulating blood with oxygen and removing carbon dioxide. The venous reservoir acts as a prefilter and ensures a constant blood level. Woven fabrics serve as a security filter to remove air bubbles and particulate matter.

**Arterial filters**

Arterial filters safely block both air bubbles and particulate emboli. In order to obtain a high filtration performance the filter surface area is increased by pleating. Sefar offers hydrophilic surface treatments to improve the priming properties of arterial filter components.
Infusion

The woven fabric in the infusion set acts as a security filter. The function of the filter is to retain large particles that might be present in the infusion solutions (e.g. aggregated nutrients, pharmaceutical compounds) or which may originate from the infusion bag or the infusion bottle. The DIN and ISO standards require that the filter fabric must retain particles greater than 20 microns with an efficiency of greater than 80%.

The precision-woven monofilament fabrics of the SEFAR MEDIFAB® product range fulfill and exceed these criteria. Sefar’s highly precise and biocompatible filter fabrics are known for their excellent particle retention efficiencies and high throughput rates.
Transfusion and Diagnostics

Transfusion
Millions of transfusions and auto-transfusions are performed safely every year. Transfusion sets are life-saving devices that prevent blood clots and particles from entering the patient’s bloodstream. The high throughput rates and precise mesh openings of Sefar filter fabrics contribute to the excellent reliability and performance of transfusion sets.

Manufacturers like the high strength and consistent filter geometry inherent in Sefar products. Sefar offers the largest range of woven and fabricated medical filter components available.

Blood filter in an ISO 1135 compliant transfusion set

Diagnostics
Sefar products increase the speed and reliability of diagnostic test strips. The homogeneous woven structure and hydrophilic surface properties of Sefar fabrics guarantee excellent spreading and wicking performance for even the smallest sample volumes.

A woven fabric enhances the overall performance of a test strip by:

– Increasing flow and lateral flow rate and therefore decreasing response time
– Decreasing sample volume and therefore increasing user acceptance
– Increasing homogeneity of sample distribution and therefore increasing measuring accuracy

Test surface of blood test strips
Prefabricated Filter Elements

Sefar owns all processes to convert SEFAR MEDIFAB® fabrics into customer-specific shaped parts.

The production in an ISO 14644 class 7 cleanroom is validated according to ISO 13485.

Ribbons
Fabrics can be heat or ultrasonically slit. Both slitting techniques ensure an optimally sealed, non-fraying edge quality. Ribbon width ranges:
– From 7 mm to 2400 mm (heat-slit)
– And from 4 mm to 350 mm (ultrasonically-slit)

Tubes, cut to length
Using either cold or laser cutting, tube segments can be manufactured with the following dimensions:
– Cold-cut segments range from Ø 7 mm to Ø 140 mm
– Laser-cut segments range from Ø 7 mm to Ø 80 mm
– Minimal length ranges from 5 mm to 1000 mm

Tubes, continuous rolls
Fabrics, single or multilayer, can be heat slit (transport seam only) or ultrasonically welded into tube configurations:
– Heat-slit tubes range from Ø 8 mm to 50 mm
– US-welded tubes, including micro tubes, range from Ø 3 mm to 250 mm

Stamped discs, shapes
Fabrics can be provided pre-cut in virtually any configuration by laser cutting, cold stamping or ultrasonic stamping. Disc diameter ranges from 6 mm to 95 mm.

Pleated elements
Mono- and multi-layered pleated elements are available in the following dimensions: width ranges from 25 mm to 1200 mm and pleat height from 6 mm to 50 mm. Pleat counts are unlimited.

Semi-finished components
Fabrics can be combined with one or several adhesive layers which enables a cost-efficient and fast joining of the fabric piece to any filter component.
Technical Informations

Sefar’s precision-woven monofilament media provide a more consistent material alternative to non-woven media.

For a complete list of SEFAR MEDIFAB® fabrics see «Sefar Solutions for the Healthcare Industry». Upon request, a multitude of other mesh openings and open areas can be produced. Also, polyether ether ketone (PEEK) and polypropylene (PP) fabrics can be finished in SEFAR MEDIFAB® quality.

The main advantages of Sefar products include:
– Standard material in PET and PA
– Homogenous material properties
– Exceptional lot-to-lot consistency
– Precise fabric dimensions
– Defined surface characteristics
– High throughput rates
– Excellent particle retention efficiencies
– Non-shedding due to monofilament yarn
– High wicking rates due to specific weave constructions
– High wettability due to hydrophilic surface coatings
– EtO- and gamma-sterilizable

The SEFAR MEDIFAB® process and products comply with these regulations and characteristics:
– Code of Federal regulations (FDA 21CFR177) and European guidelines (EU 10/2011)
– Quality systems according to ISO regulations 9001, 13485, and 14644 follow applicable GMP guidelines for lot traceability and documentation control
– No ozone depleting substances used in production

SEFAR MEDIFAB® biocompatibility tests comprise:
– Non-pyrogenic according USP
– Non-hemolytic according ISO 8536-4
– Non-cytotoxic according ISO 10993
– USP class VI and ISO 10993 compliant
– Sensitization ISO 10993 compliant
– Low extractables according ISO 1135-4

Abbreviations

FDA & CFR
United States «Food and Drug Administration»; regulatory agency of the US government that is responsible for the regulation of materials used for food production and processing.
Code of Federal Regulations and published by FDA, contains/describes guidelines and regulations for food and food related products.

USP
United States Pharmacopeia; Organization that promotes and establishes officially recognized standards of quality for drugs and healthcare related articles.

DIN
Deutsches Institute für Normung (German Institute for Standardization); Organization that promotes and establishes officially recognized standards.

ISO
International Standards Organization; Association that promotes and establishes officially recognized standards.
Definitions

**Product reference**
- Fiber material (03 = PA 6.6): 03-250/50
- Mesh opening (μm): 03-250/50
- Open area (a₀) [%]: 03-250/50

**Mesh opening (w) [μm]**
The mesh opening \( w \) is the distance between two adjacent warp or weft threads.
Method: Two-dimensional image analysis
According to: ASTM E11

**Open area (a₀) [%]**
The percentage of the open area \( a₀ \) is the sum of all mesh openings as percentage of the total fabric area.
Method: Two-dimensional image analysis
According to: ASTM E11

**Mesh count (n) [n/cm], [n/in]**
The mesh count stands for the number of threads per cm or inch.
Method: Two-dimensional image analysis
According to: ASTM E11

**Yarn diameter nominal (d) [μm]**
The yarn diameter is measured on the thread before weaving.
Method: Short length method
According to: DIN 53830

**Fabric thickness D [μm]**
Method: Thickness gauge
According to: DIN EN ISO 5084

**Air permeability**
Method: Airflow at pressure drop
According to: DIN EN ISO 9237

**Weight [g/m²] [oz/yd²]**
Method: Gravimetry
According to: DIN EN 12127

**Color [CIE Lab]**
Method: Spectral photometry
According to: DIN 5033

**Contact angle**
Method: Optical image analysis
According to: DIN 55660-2
**SEFAR MEDIFAB® Tests**

**LAL test** [Limulus Amoebocyte Lysate or Pyrogen/(Bacterial-) Endotoxin Test] Testing method for detecting bacterial endotoxins which are fever producing, water soluble compounds. Endotoxin is a toxin produced by bacteria and is released after the death of the bacteria.

Limit: 0.125 EU/ml  
Regulation: US Pharmacopeia (USP) ‹85›

**Hemolysis test**  
Testing method for detecting compounds which destroy red blood cells.

Limit: No hemolysis  
Regulation: ISO 8536-4 / ISO 10993-4

**Cytotoxicity test**  
Evaluation of leachables extracted from material which may cause cytotoxicity (cell death).

Limit: No cytotoxicity  
Regulation: ISO 10993-5

**Plastics USP class VI test/ISO10993**  
The tests are conducted in order to evaluate the biocompatibility of materials, i.e. not induce a toxic, injurious or immunological response in living tissue.

Limit: Pass  
Regulation: USP ‹88› / ISO10993, parts 5, 6, 10, 11

**Acute systemic toxicity**  
Test for detecting components which may harm the whole organism.

Limit: Pass  
Regulation: USP/ISO10993-11

**Intracutaneous toxicity**  
Evaluation of materials causing intracutaneous toxicity (locally provoked dermal tissue effects).

Limit: Pass  
Regulation: USP/ISO10993-10
**Implantation test**
Evaluation of the potential to be a local irritant or for a toxic response to the material.

Limit: Pass
Regulation: USP

**Extractables**
Evaluation of residues/substances that can be leached from a filter during the filtration process or under other specified conditions.

Limit: Below
Regulation: 21CFR177.1500, 21CFR177.1630

**Low protein binding**
Bovine Serum Albumin (BSA) adsorption tests prove that SEFAR MEDIFAB® fabrics adsorb BSA at non-detectable levels.

Limit: 2.5 µg/cm²
Regulation: Proprietary
Sefar worldwide

Sefar is the leading manufacturer of precision fabrics from monofilaments for the screen printing and filtration market. Sefar products are used in a wide variety of industries, reaching from electronics, graphics, medical, automotive, food and pharmaceutical applications to aerospace, mining & refining and architecture. With its profound understanding of the applications Sefar helps its customers to achieve optimum results in their industrial processes. Subsidiaries and fabrications centers in 26 countries on 6 continents provide local technical service for the broad range of solutions offered by Sefar.

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