
**Cardiovascular implants and
extracorporeal systems —
Cardiovascular absorbable implants**

*Implants cardiovasculaires et systèmes extracorporels — Implants
cardiovasculaires absorbables*

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 150, *Implants for surgery*, Subcommittee SC 2, *Cardiovascular implants and extracorporeal systems*.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO/TS 17137:2019), which has been technically revised.

The main changes compared to the previous edition are as follows:

- considerations have been added to multiple clauses regarding degradation-induced device fracture and the generation of absorbable particulate matter after mechanical attributes are lost;
- clauses about labelling and instructions for use (IFU) have been modified;
- [Figure 2](#) has been modified to facilitate translation into multiple languages;
- standards with guidance for characterization of absorbable polymers and metals have been elaborated.
- additional guidance regarding animal and clinical study design, limitations, and assessment has been added.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

Introduction

Absorbable cardiovascular implants are medical devices with various clinical indications for use in the human cardiovascular blood system. An absorbable cardiovascular implant, or at least a portion thereof, is designed to intentionally degrade over time into degradation products that are absorbed by the body through either metabolism, assimilation, or excretion (elimination), or all. Such implants can be either surgically introduced or introduced through intervention to the site of treatment.

This document outlines requirements for intended performance, design attributes, materials, design evaluation, manufacturing, sterilization, packaging, and information supplied by the manufacturer. This document is intended to be a supplement to ISO 14630, which specifies general requirements for the performance of non-active surgical implants. This document is intended to also be a supplement to relevant device-specific standards such as the ISO 25539 series specifying requirements for endovascular devices, which do not address degradation and other time dependent aspects of absorbable implants and coatings. Additionally, this document should be considered in conjunction with ISO 14155, which specifies proper practices in clinical investigations.

This document is not comprehensive with respect to the pharmacological evaluation of cardiovascular absorbable implants. More detailed safety and performance requirements for pharmacological agents included in the absorbable cardiovascular implant are described in ISO 12417-1.

Only issues related to degradation and absorption combined with the cardiovascular implant are covered by this document. Due to the variations in the design of implants covered by this document and in some cases due to the relatively recent development of some of these implants (e.g. absorbable stents), acceptable standardized in vitro tests and clinical results are not always available. As further scientific and clinical data become available, appropriate revision of this document will be necessary.

NOTE For issues related to the common mechanical function of the cardiovascular implant, it can be useful to consider a number of other international standards that are given in the Bibliography.

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