

on the box and their terminal electrodes are fixed on the corresponding areas of the skin with small pieces of Steridrape®. All switches and outlets, as well as the coaxial cables, are identified with labels showing the sites of the electrodes' placement and hence stimulation.

Before the preparation of the surgical field, the electrodes are applied on the desired dermatomes of the skin (fig. 2) and the minimally perceptible electric stimulus determined. The tolerable sensations may vary among patients from a slight pinprick to a fleeting, painful sensation. Once the threshold intensity of current has been found, it must remain unchanged for the subsequent evaluations, although it may be changed for special studies. After the

epidural or spinal anesthesia has been completed, and at any time during the operation, it is easy to test for sensory level on either or both sides of the body by pressing the appropriate switches on the panel.

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(Accepted for publication September 24, 1979.)

Anesthesiology
52:190, 1980

Moisture-proofing the Beckman D2® Oxygen Analyzer

To the Editor:—The Beckman D2® oxygen analyzer does not function properly when moisture is allowed to enter the magnetic unit analysis cell assembly. Once water has entered the analyzer cell it must be replaced. Current replacement cost is approximately \$375, not including labor. To prevent this problem, a silica gel drying tube is provided to dry sample gas prior to entry into the unit. This drying tube is adequate when used with nonpressurized systems or ventilator circuits without PEEP. However, the silica gel drying tube is not capable of preventing entry of water when gas is sampled from ventilator circuits used to deliver higher levels of PEEP, especially when used with in-line nebulization therapy.

Hemodialysis units have used in-line venous pressure isolators (transducer filters) to prevent blood or fluid contamination of venous pressure monitors. We have adapted the Gelman transducer protector* for use with the Beckman D2 analyzer to prevent water contamination of the analyzer cell. The filters contain a 0.2 μ m Acropor® hydrophobic membrane that acts as a barrier to any aqueous or aerosol medium, but allows free transmission of sampled gas. It is placed in the gas sampling line just prior to the silica gel drying

tube using a short length of disposable oxygen tubing. The filter need only be changed when it becomes wet.

We have tested D2 analyzers with this modification both in clinical use and with a lung simulator, using heated humidifiers, aerosol and ultrasonic nebulizers, tubing partially filled with water, and from zero to 25 torr PEEP, without being able to force water into the analyzer cell. The modified analyzers were compared with unmodified units regarding response time, reproducibility and accuracy. This modification does not produce any alteration in the functional characteristics of these analyzers. Prior to our regular use of this modification, we had been replacing eight to 12 magnetic unit analyzer cells per year. Following installation of these filters we have not replaced any unit because of water contamination.

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(Accepted for publication September 27, 1979.)

* Product No. 6004185, Gelman Sciences, Inc., Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106.

Anesthesiology
52:190-191, 1980

An Anesthesiology Liaison Service

To the Editor:—In 1975, after serving for more than 25 years as the chairman of an anesthesiology department and as a program director for a residency

training program in anesthesiology, and after having experienced one major myocardial infarction, I made the decision to shed the stresses of anesthesiology