

Anesthesiology
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Malfunction of Ohio Modulus® Anesthesia Machine

To the Editor:—After three months of use, a new Ohio Modulus® Anesthesia Gas Machine malfunctioned in a manner that seriously endangered the life of a patient. The vaporizer selector-interlock valve became caught on the vertical pin at the rear of the assembly as illustrated (background, fig. 1). Normally this pin slides into the slot toward the word “right” (fig. 1) when the assembly is turned to the right. If the Allen’s screw in the center of the assembly (foreground, fig. 1) is loose, this malfunction may occur.

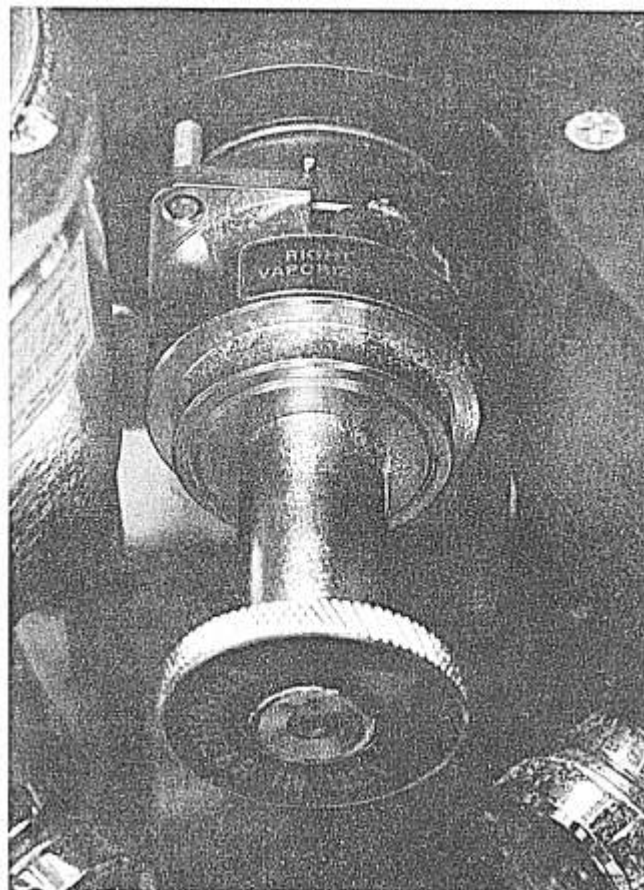
All metered gases are then not delivered to the anesthesia circuit, and only the oxygen flush valve will deliver properly. This malfunction was detected during the administration of an anesthetic before the patient was harmed. Either the machine was delivered with this Allen’s screw loose, or it loosened with use during the three-month period.

Anyone using this machine should be aware of this possible malfunction.

WILLIAM F. CHILDRES, M.D.
*Attending Staff
Anesthesiology Department
The Methodist Hospital
Houston, Texas*

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FIG. 1. Vaporizer selector-interlock valve of Ohio Modulus® Anesthesia Gas Machine.



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Modification of Pediatric Laryngoscope

To the Editor:—In an attempt to better control the slippery tongue of a neonate or infant during endotracheal intubation, I have attempted to overcome the lack of friction provided by standard pediatric polished steel blades.

A thin strip of standard cloth adhesive tape (the least expensive, uncoated varieties have the best non-skid surface) adhering to the entire length of the lingual surface of the blade has proved to work best. It is especially helpful in the unwilling, vigorous patient.

Several colleagues in the Anesthesiology Department

here have found this technique helpful and encouraged its submission for more widespread application, criticism and hopefully improvement.

PATRICIA MOYNIHAN, M.D.
*Associate Professor of Surgery and Pediatrics
Tulane Medical Center
Department of Surgery
New Orleans, Louisiana 70140*

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