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A Further Plea to Standardize Equipment

To the Editor:—We read with interest Dr. Stehling's comments on intravenous cannulas and concur with her conclusion in the need for their standardization.¹ We further believe that there should be standardization in the markings placed on epidural catheters. As can be seen in figure 1, there are different marking systems on each of the catheters provided by five of the major catheter manufacturers. These different legends are confusing and may lead to inadequate advancement of the catheter. This situation may be especially true in the teaching hospital setting where the management of an epidural for labor is taken over by a different resident who deems it necessary to readjust the catheter. It is essential that there be an effort to standardize the manufacturing of not only epidural

and intravenous catheters, but of all medical equipment whenever possible.

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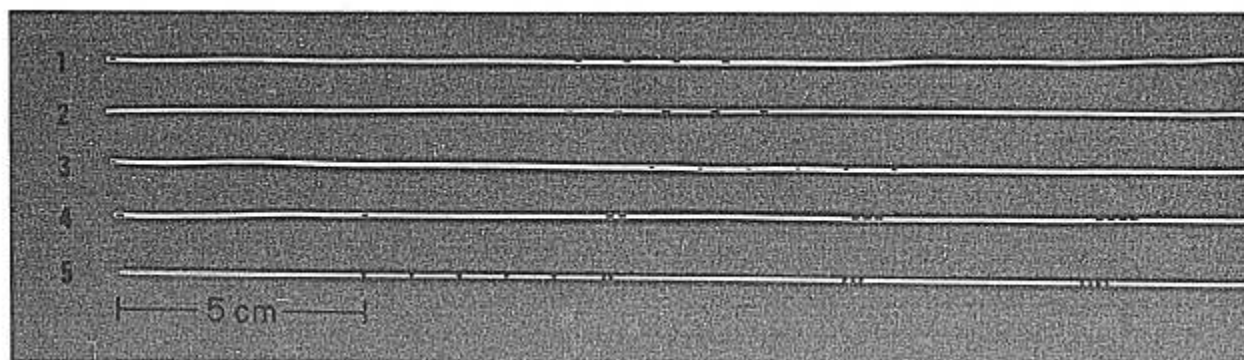


FIG. 2. Epidural catheters from five major manufacturers: 1) Travenol, 2) Desseret, 3) Abbott, 4) Curity, 5) Portex.