

is especially advantageous to insure ventilation of the right upper lobe when a White or right Robertshaw double-lumen tube is used.

We agree that the largest double-lumen tube possible should be used. The authors did not elaborate about what they did if the largest possible double-lumen tube required the endobronchial cuff to be inflated beyond the point of luminal encroachment. Possibly this situation never arose in their series. In the case where the endobronchial cuff requires inflation slightly past the point of luminal invagination, bronchial cuff herniation and carinal deviation is a real problem. The bronchial cuff of the Robertshaw tube sits farther down the left main bronchus, making herniation very unlikely.

The National Catheter double-lumen tube has been shown to be reliable during routine thoracic anesthesia.² However, until this double-lumen tube is modified, we have marked reservation concerning its use in bronchopulmonary lung lavage.

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CO₂ Absorber Malassembly

To the Editor:—A malassembly of two Ohio CO₂ absorbers was reported recently to Ohio Medical Products. During a case in which a CO₂ analyzer was being used, inspired levels of CO₂ of 15–18 mmHg and end-tidal levels of 50–60 mmHg were detected. All machines in the OR suite then were checked and one other produced inspired levels of 13 mmHg. A malassembly of a CO₂ bypass plug assembly was discovered in the two defective absorbers.

The CO₂ bypass valve is intended to permit rebreathing of CO₂. In operation, the CO₂ bypass valve will open or close a port internal to the absorber head. When in the bypass mode, some of the expiratory gases will bypass the absorbant. The Ohio® Model 20/21 Absorber also may be purchased without the CO₂ bypass valve. A plug assembly is installed in its place. In the case of the defective absorbers, the plugs were misassembled. The correct plug assembly is shown in figure 1.

In summary, we wish to call your attention to this finding and encourage you to examine your absorber for a possible malassembly. We also want to stress the importance of having properly trained personnel servicing or modifying your equipment with original manufacturer's replacement components.

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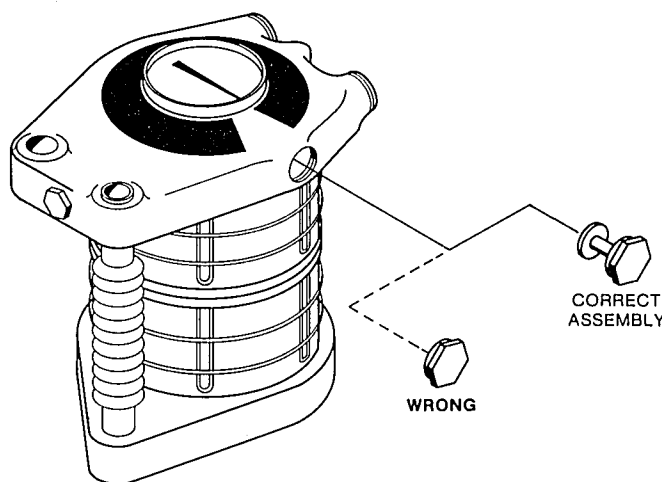


FIG. 1. Ohio® Absorber—Model 20/21 bypass valve plug assembly.

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