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### High Pressure Pop-off Safety Device when Using the Bain Circuit for CPAP Oxygenation during One-lung Ventilation

*To the Editor:*—A recent letter to the Editor<sup>1</sup> suggested the use of a Bain circuit as an alternative method of supplying CPAP to the non-dependent lung during one-lung anesthesia.

We have used a similar Bain circuit configuration (fig. 1) at our institution for the same purpose. We, however, in addition have added a 15-cm H<sub>2</sub>O PEEP valve (arrow, fig. 1) proximal to the breathing bag to function as a high pressure pop-off safety device. If the Bain circuit pop-off or oxygen tank flow is accidentally altered, no more than 15 cm H<sub>2</sub>O pressure is exerted on the airway, thus avoiding potential barotrauma.

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#### REFERENCE

- Scheller MS, Varvel JR: CPAP oxygenation during one-lung ventilation using a Bain circuit. *ANESTHESIOLOGY* 66:708, 1987

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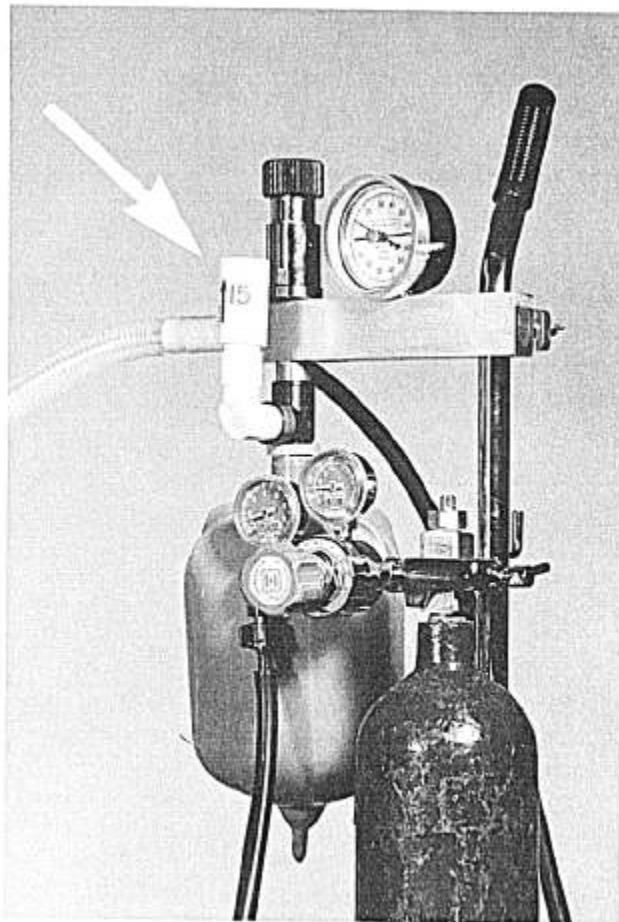


FIG. 1. PEEP valve inserted between breathing circuit and reservoir bag.

### Economic Impact of Low-Flow Anesthesia

*To the Editor:*—The Department of Anesthesiology at the University of Maryland had been using fresh gas flow rates of 3–5 liters per minute with the standard adult circle system. Over successive 6-month periods, beginning in July of 1983 through June, 1985, isoflurane increased from 40% to 76% of the total volatile agent purchased. The monthly expenditures for volatile agents (halothane [\$0.08/cc], enflurane [\$0.26/cc],

isoflurane [\$0.48/cc]) were escalating. Since most of the fresh gas and volatile agent were exiting the patient and the operating room *via* the scavenging system, and the most expensive volatile agent was being used most often, the Department chose to implement a low flow (<2 l/min)-closed system anesthesia (<1 l/min) educational campaign. The purpose was to reduce volatile anesthetic costs and environmental pollution and to im-