REFERENCES


(Accepted for publication January 24, 1989.)

A Humidification Device for Nasal Oxygen

To the Editor—Inhalation of dry oxygen causes uncomfortable symptoms such as nasal dryness, stuffiness, and itching, despite flows as low as 3 l/min. We have devised a simple, inexpensive means of humidification of oxygen for use with nasal cannulae. As shown in figure 1, the Y-piece of the breathing circuit is attached to an AirLife brand (American Pharmaseal Company) or similar humidifier bottle via a double male 22-mm corrugated tubing adaptor. Humidification is achieved by bubbling oxygen through water, the humidity being low enough to avoid condensation in the long narrow tubing that is connected to the nasal cannula.

We have tested the device on 40 unselected women undergoing cesarean section under regional analgesia. Unannounced change from dry to humidified oxygen was always followed by statements that breathing was suddenly easier, while change from humidified to dry oxygen led to complaints of discomfort. Flow rates of up to 5 l/min were well tolerated. Pulse oximetry revealed no differences in oxygen saturation between inhalation of dry versus humidified oxygen.

We recommend use of this simple device for any situation requiring inhalation of nasal oxygen by conscious patients.

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Postoperative Apnea in a Full-term Infant

To the Editor—We read with interest the report of postanesthetic apnea in a healthy full-term infant. We recently cared for a term infant who experienced a similar single episode of apnea, accompanied by bradycardia, 6 h after a 2-h general anesthetic. We write to support...