

Anaesthesia Product News

Spring 2006

Compact Hand-Held Device For Rapid And Accurate Measuring

The Electrode Company Ltd specialises in non-invasive monitoring, optical sensors and high performance pulse oximetry. A recent independent survey of over 30 hospitals in the UK using the innovative Lightman[®] SpO₂ micro-spectrometer on a variety of Pulse Oximeter sensors has shown various levels of unacceptable performance in SpO₂ clinical results and circuit faults.

The survey was undertaken by both technical and clinical hospital staff. Sensor accuracy was measured by assessing pulse oximeter integrity and the operational properties of their optical components. Of the 847 pulse oximeters tested 17% had errors in SpO₂ of clinical significance. Tests were also carried out for circuit faults, with 14% of all sensors tested showing such faults. Variations of greater than 3% in SpO₂ levels and all circuit faults recorded were considered unacceptable.

Over 30% of all the sensors assessed had unacceptable levels of errors giving rise to concerns when in use in a clinical environment. Errors in sensor performance often go unchallenged, which can potentially lead to misinformed clinical decisions.

The Lightman is a unique, portable, compact and hand-held device, which is easily operated by non-technicians and designed to be rapid and accurate in measuring SpO₂ sensor performance.

It will be reassuring in use and help reduce the number of patients potentially put at risk daily from faulty SpO₂ sensors, which often go unchallenged.

