

Operating Theatre Journal

July/August 2008

Lightman® preferred to SpO₂ simulator at York

The Electrode Company Ltd specialises in non-invasive monitoring, optical sensors and high performance pulse oximetry. One of the company's products, The Lightman® miniature, portable microspectrometer, has established an excellent and expanding reputation for testing the most vulnerable part of the pulse oximeter system, namely the probe LED.



Following a trial period of the Lightman, when the instrument was used routinely to validate ward claims of faulty SpO₂ probes, the York DGH purchased its own Lightman at the beginning of 2008. EME Manager, Graham Barnes, said: "We originally tested the pulse oximeter probes and cables using an electronic SpO₂ simulator, but probes that were passed as OK, failed in practice, a situation which we felt could compromise patient safety."

The Lightman tests circuit integrity and measures LED wavelength spectrum and light output within the probe sensor, wherever it is located in the hospital. The calculated sensor accuracy at critical SpO₂ levels appears on the Lightman screen, enabling inaccurate and faulty sensors to be rapidly identified and withdrawn from clinical use. Graham Barnes added: "We feel much more secure now about testing probe function with the Lightman, because it evaluates the light sensitivity, which is the acid test of functionality."

Graham Barnes added: "The ease of use of the Lightman was a key factor in our decision to buy one. We find the instrument convenient to transport if we need to, and we are confident that we now pick up any suspect faulty probes before they may have been put back into service. We are considering the possibility of extending the Lightman use here in York to planned maintenance."

For more information on the Lightman product range, please contact The Electrode Co, on 01291 650279 or at www.electro.co.uk.

The Electrode Company:
*Ensuring accurate data for better
clinical outcomes.*

Please quote 'OTJ'