

PRESS RELEASE

Transport of intensive care patients

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Ventilation for critical care transport demands special attention

Bremen – As a result of demographic changes and current reforms in health care, it is expected that the transport of intensive care patients will continue to increase in the future. Carrying out these necessary transfers demands specially trained personnel in appropriately equipped vehicles. A current study shows that special attention should be paid to the subject of ventilation in order to ensure proper care of the patient and to minimize mishaps during transport.

The transport of intensive care patients involves the risk of potential complications. The need for critical care or secondary transport is constantly growing and will continue to grow in the future. "As our society ages, increasing numbers of people require more extensive medical care. Those patients more often have to be moved from one hospital to another for further treatment. Moreover, the health care system is changing; economic guidelines and hospital specialization also make it necessary to transport patients more often," said Prof. Dr. Peter Sefrin, chairman of the German Association of Emergency Physicians (BAND), Würzburg (Germany).

Majority of patients are ventilated

To give patients the best possible care and to prevent mishaps during critical care transport, many communities have already put specially equipped intensive care transport vehicles or helicopters to use. An analysis¹ of intensive care transport carried out within one year in Würzburg shows that in addition to strict monitoring, continued treatment may also be required. In particular, special attention should be devoted to ventilation – that is, to providing an adequate supply of oxygen. In Würzburg patients in 55.6% of the cases examined were treated with mechanical ventilation when placed in the vehicle; the number increased to 57.6% during transport.

Increase in controlled ventilation

"It was shown that in a significant portion of patients – depending on the illness – changes in the breathing pattern were required during transport," said Sefrin. "Assisted ventilation (like ASB and CPAP) decreased in favor of controlled ventilation (mostly BIPAP) – and thus adequate oxygenation was ensured."

¹ P. Sefrin, Use of an intensive care transport vehicle with special consideration given to ventilation, 2008, now being printed

The previously applied type of ventilation was changed during transport for 42.7% of ventilated patients because controlled-assisted ventilation offered a greater degree of safety without use of medication that suppressed spontaneous breathing.

Weinmann presents innovative transport ventilator

Critical care transport therefore poses a special challenge for personnel and demands suitable furnishing of mobile intensive care units. At the upcoming AKUT, the Hamburg-based medical technology company Weinmann will present its newly developed transport ventilator MEDUMAT Transport as the optimum solution to meet the varied requirements of intensive care transport ventilation. The new device offers eight different ventilation modes (PCV, BiLevel, CPAP, ASB, SIMV, IPPV, SVV and SPV) plus NIV for non-invasive ventilation. MEDUMAT Transport provides the same capabilities as modern hospital devices, but is also lightweight and mobile, like an emergency ventilator.

More information:

http://www.weinmann.de/en/home_emergency/beatmung_und_monitoring/medumat_transport/

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Background: Weinmann

Weinmann Geräte für Medizin GmbH + Co. KG concentrates on its product lines Homecare, Emergency and Diagnostics. In these areas the Hamburg-based family business offers diagnostic, therapeutic and also life-saving devices and system solutions of the highest quality. Today it is in the hands of the Griefahn and Feldhahn families and its headquarters have been located in Hamburg-Stellingen since 1977.

Today the company has about 500 employees. With more than 100 patent families and 90 trademarks, Weinmann is among the leading providers of medical devices for home care, diagnostics and emergency medicine in Germany. Sales in 2007 were 65.5 million Euros. Weinmann does business in more than 50 countries and operates branch offices in France, Switzerland, Thailand, China, Russia, Australia and New Zealand.

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