

# PRESS RELEASE

## High-quality ventilation required

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### Ideally equipped mobile intensive care units

**Bremen – Because the inter-hospital transfer of intensive care patients is particularly risky, it requires thorough preparation and the best technical equipment available. "Intensive care transport will continue to increase in future," said Dr. Jan-Thorsten Gräsner of the Schleswig-Holstein University Hospital. "Since standard rescue services can hardly meet both the quantitative and qualitative demands, it is necessary to have specially trained personnel and vehicles expressly equipped for this purpose." In order to maintain an appropriate level of care during transport, the vehicle should not fall short of the quality and scope of equipment found in an intensive care unit.**

Studies<sup>1</sup> in recent years have shown that between 46 and 100 % of seriously injured or critically ill persons are first taken to a hospital which cannot provide damage control. In Europe in 1999, for example, 57% of all patients with craniocerebral injury and up to 46% of all patients with polytrauma were transported to a second hospital which was set up for damage control. The number increases to 100% for patients with acute respiratory syndrome. The risks associated with the transport of such seriously ill patients are – with 6 to 71% involving unintended events – considerable. The figures support the claim that top-quality intensive care transport equipment is absolutely necessary. However, until now no binding regulations have been put into effect at the European or German level.

#### Suitable equipment required

Special means of intensive care transport – vehicles and helicopters – should be equipped with the standard devices used in rescue vehicles and helicopters and with additional top-quality technical devices such as ventilators, patient monitoring systems, medications and syringe pumps. "Based on our experience, we say that a ventilator for intensive care transport should offer assisted and controlled ventilation and pressure-cycled, volume-cycled and time-cycled modes. Furthermore, the ventilator should be highly portable, have sufficient battery capacity and should not require any other operational gas besides oxygen," Gräsner said. Ventilators used by rescue services generally allow only a limited number of breathing patterns. Intensive care patients, however, require all the pressure-cycled or volume-cycled types associated with intensive care medicine. During transport, therefore, the portion of differentiated ventilation patterns lies between 50 and 90%.

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<sup>1</sup> For an overview: Gräsner JT, Heller G, Döriges V, Scholz J, Bein B., Inter-hospital transfer: Indications, Sequence of Events and Organization. Anasth Intensiv Notf 43: 122-129, 2008 (article in German).

**Specially developed for transport ventilation: MEDUMAT Transport**

Only very few mobile ventilators now fulfill these requirements. Weinmann has recently introduced its transport ventilator MEDUMAT Transport, which can be used for both emergency transport and intensive care ventilation during transport. The new device, which can be connected to the proven MEDUMAT ventilation systems, provides eight distinct modes for differentiated ventilation. In addition, the NIV mode can be activated for non-invasive ventilation. The lightweight (4.5 kilograms) MEDUMAT Transport is a highly mobile device and, when mounted on the reliable Weinmann carrying system, a space-saving addition to a mobile intensive care unit.

More information:

[http://www.weinmann.de/en/home\\_emergency/beatmung\\_und\\_monitoring/medumat\\_transport/](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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