

John S Lamb

From: King, Lori <LKing@ECRI.org>
To: 'Steve Nixon' <steve@viamed.co.uk>
Sent: 14 March 2001 18:34
Subject: RE: Pulse oximetry hazard warnings?

Dear Steve,

I am very familiar with Viamed Ltd as I have previously corresponded with (I assume) one of your co-workers, Peter Lamb, who by the way was very helpful.

I must tell you that the rumors you have heard are incorrect. As far as I know (and I would be the one here at ECRI to know), there are no hazards being written at ECRI regarding Ohmeda pulse oximetry probes and/or Ohmeda pulse oximeters. I checked all of our relevant databases and there are no recent (less than 4-5 years) articles that have been written and no articles in the works regarding Ohmeda pulse oximeters and/or probes. I also checked the FDA website and found nothing there as well.

Problems most often seen with probes and pulse oximeters (regardless of manufacturer) are the following:

- burns from probes (in some cases the probes were properly matched to the oximeter and in other cases the probes and oximeter were mismatched)
- pressure necrosis from probes
- numbness from probes
- accuracy issues (for various reasons, e.g., light interference, motion, low perfusion, dyes, nail polish, dark skin, etc)

I hope this information helps you. If you need any more information, feel free to ask.

Also, if you get a chance, could you please let me know specifically what you heard regarding that rumor as I would like to put a stop to it.

Thanks,
 Lori

Lori A. King
 Project Officer, Health Devices Group
ECRI
 5200 Butler Pike
 Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462-1298
 Tel. +1 (610) 825-6000, ext 5111
 Fax +1 (610) 834-1275
 Email: lking@ecri.org

-----Original Message-----

From: Steve Nixon [mailto:steve@viamed.co.uk]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2001 6:23 AM
To: lking@ecri.org
Subject: Pulse oximetry hazard warnings?

Dear Lori

I have been given your details from one of your colleagues, Cindy Wallace.

We have heard rumours that ECRI have produced an hazard warning regarding Ohmeda pulse

oximetry probes and Ohmeda pulse oximeters. I was wondering if this report is available and if there have been any other similar reported hazards with other probes or pulse oximeters.

We are BS EN ISO 9001/BS EN 46001 accredited company and since we are involved in pulse oximetry R&D, manufacture and service we are keen to be updated with any problems in the industry.

Any help you can provide regarding this matter will be very much appreciated.

Kind regards

Steve