

UPDATE ON THE INTERNET

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You can now receive an electronic version of Update in Anaesthesia - you can read it on your computer screen (using free software which we provide). You can use the electronic version whether or not your computer is connected to the internet.

The electronic version of Update in Anaesthesia contains almost all the articles ever published in Update, together with illustrations. The software allows you to search, read and print out selected material, or to print whole issues if you wish. You can make as many reprints as you want whenever you need them. This should be of considerable help to teaching centres.

You do not need the latest and most expensive sort of computer to make use of Electronic Update. A 286 PC should be adequate. If you need technical advice please write to Dr. Mike Dobson, Nuffield Dept of Anaesthetics, John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford OX3 9DU, UK or send an email request to michael.dobson@ndm.ox.ac.uk

We will need to know a few details about your computer model and operating system [e.g. DOS, Windows 3.x, Windows 95] to ensure that we send the correct software for you to use. If you don't have internet access but do have a computer we can post you the same materials on floppy disk with instructions for use (this offer applies only to addresses in developing countries).

If you have an internet connection you can access Update at

<http://www.nda.ox.ac.uk/wfsa/>

This site also has links through which you can download the necessary free software to use Update off-line, as well as downloading the issues themselves. (To download a complete issue -about 300k - via a telephone link will take 2-3 minutes)

If you have a local contact or (for example) British Council library, with internet access, you can ask them to do the downloading and printing for you. Update is supported by the UK Department for International Development (formerly ODA)

Electronic Update has been available for only a few months, but has already been used by anaesthetists in 56 different countries.

PRACTICAL PROCEDURE FOR DEALING WITH STICKING OMV'S

Mike Yeats, Equipment Maintenance, Derriford Hospital, Plymouth

The Oxford Miniature Vaporiser is designed for drawover anaesthesia and rarely give problems. Occasionally the pointer becomes stiff to rotate due to deposits of thymol left behind by halothane. The following simple procedure should be carried out once a month or whenever the control lever become stiff to operate.

Place a bung in the inlet side of the OMV, turn the vaporiser on to its side and pour in some ether or methylated spirits or halothane whilst moving the pointer to and fro. The vaporiser should be completely filled and allowed to stand for 5 minutes before emptying. If you are using ether or halothane perform this procedure outside to avoid inhaling the fumes. Empty the fluid out of the vaporiser and blow it through with air for 10 - 15 minutes. If this procedure does not free the lever the next issue of Update will describe how to deal with a completely jammed vaporiser.

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