

## EQUIPMENT REVIEW

### **The Robertshaw demand valve**

This device has been used in the resuscitation room to replace the customary self-inflating bag. The valve is connected to the standard oxygen supply and regulates its input to the patient. By pressing on the button on the back of the valve, oxygen is allowed through to a maximum pressure of 50 cm of water. The valve can be attached to a face mask or endotracheal tube and the button is pressed hard enough and long enough for the chest to rise an adequate amount. The patient can also breathe spontaneously through the valve.

We have used this manually triggered oxygen powered resuscitator for the resuscitation of patients in cardiac arrest. The device is permanently plugged into the oxygen supply and connected to the endotracheal tube when necessary. It functions extremely well in adults. It can be used with one hand and requires very little skill. It is small enough to be easily held between two fingers of one hand and the thumb of the same hand is used to control the release button. We have not used it on children because we feel that the initial burst of oxygen before the user has acquainted himself with how much pressure is to be used, may be dangerous in small children and infants. The nursing staff in particular have found the instrument of great value. It takes up far less storage space than the normal self-expanding bag and requires no strength to operate. The medical staff including anaesthetists approve of it and now prefer it to the self-expanding bag. As the device is powered only by the oxygen supply the patient is getting 100% oxygen.

The device is simple to use and extremely efficient. It has gained widespread approval from all grades of staff and has now become an essential feature of our resuscitation room. We would recommend other people to try it.

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