

A Comparison of Four Major Brands of Pulse Oximeters (PO) with Masimo SET (PO) during Motion and Low Perfusion under Normoxic and Hypoxic Conditions in Human Volunteers

Clack SL, Shah N, Hoang TD, Gupta B. *Anesthesiology* 2001;95:A586 (www.asa-abstracts.com)

Introduction

Many pulse oximetry manufacturers now claim better performance of their pulse oximeter technology during patient movement in presence of low perfusion. This group of researchers undertook a study to compare four major brand of pulse oximeters to the Masimo SET pulse oximeter during motion and low perfusion under normoxic and hypoxic conditions.



Methods

Seven (7) competent, healthy, adult volunteers (5-females & 2-males) between 18 and 40 years of age (mean 27 ± 3 SD) were studied. Masimo Radical version v3 (Masimo I) was compared with Agilent Viridia 24C version Rev C.0 and Novametrix MARS Model 2001-10, and Masimo Radical version v3 (Masimo II) was compared with Nellcor N-395 version v1620 and HP CMS version Rev B.0. The left hand was used as the test hand and sensors were placed on index, middle & ring fingers. Similar fingers of the right hand had sensors for the same pulse oximeter to serve as their control. An Ohmeda pulse oximeter ear sensor was used as a control for hypoxia. The room was cooled down to a temperature of 16-18 degree C to reduce peripheral perfusion. The motion (performed by a motor-driven motion table) during normoxia (breathing room air) consisted of tapping at 3 Hz, tapping at 3 Hz with disconnect and reconnect of sensors during motion, and random rubbing. The initial selection of fingers for the sensor of the PO was randomized. The sensors were then rotated in a lateral fashion allowing for sensor placement on each finger and the motion was repeated after each sensor change. The study was repeated for a second time with two other POs along with Masimo which was used in both sets of experiments.

The motion during hypoxia (induced employing a disposable re-breathing circuit with a CO₂ absorber to a SpO₂ of $\approx 75\%$) consisted of random tapping with disconnect and reconnect of sensors during motion, 3 Hz tapping with disconnect and reconnect during motion, random rubbing, and 3 Hz rubbing. Once the SpO₂ reached $\approx 75\%$ as measured by ear sensor, the subjects were given 100% oxygen to breathe until his/her SpO₂ on the control monitor reached 100%. A missed event was defined as the inability of the monitor during desaturation to recover before the control monitor reached 100%. A false alarm was considered to be a reading of less than 90% during motion while breathing room air.

Results

False alarms were counted out of 63 occasions during motion on room air, while missed events were counted out of 28 occasions during desaturation episodes for each pulse oximeter. Sensitivity, specificity, and false alarm rates were calculated for each pulse oximeter. The results are summarized in the table.

Pulse Oximeter	Missed Events	False Alarms	False Alarm Rate	Sensitivity	Specificity
 Masimo SET I	6/28	5/63	7.9%	78.6%	92.1%
Philips/HP Viridia 24C Rev C.0	15/28	27/63	42.9%	46.4%	57.1%
Novametrix MARS	23/28	45/63	71.4%	17.9%	28.6%
 Masimo SET II	1/28	8/63	12.7%	96.4%	87.3%
N-395	13/28	21/63	33.3%	53.6%	66.7%
Philips/HP CMS Rev C.0	8/28	15/63	23.8%	71.4%	76.2%

Authors' Discussion and Conclusion

"While no PO withstood 100% of this vigorous test schedule, Masimo SET PO performed the best and has the highest sensitivity, specificity with fewest false alarm rate. HP CMS, Nellcor N-395, HP Viridia 24C, and Novametrix MARS performed in decreasing order based on the sensitivity, specificity, and false alarm rate."