

When a CryoPen is held in contact with a wart, a freeze of the lesion is achieved. The CryoPen cryosurgery system does require daily maintenance that takes several minutes each day to assure that the metal probes are chilled and always available for use.

Additionally, since the pen applicators come into contact with the skin surface, these must be sterilized between uses.

Buzzy4Shots

Pediatricians and office staff are ever mindful that our young patients are fearful of the procedures we subject them to during well and sick visits. Some of our children are extremely anxious and upset when they arrive for a well-child exam because they are anticipating the inevitable sting of the needle.

Some parents of needlephobic children request prescriptions for lidocaine patches that they apply before office visits to anesthetize injection sites.

This year, Amy Baxter, MD, a pediatrician, researcher, parent, and pain specialist, developed the **Buzzy** device to reduce needlestick-associated pain in children. Appropriate for reducing the pain associated with venipuncture, intravenous catheter starts, vaccinations, and foreign body removal, the Buzzy is a vibrating device attached to frozen gel “wings” that is placed over a site for 30 seconds and then moved a few inches proximal (between the “brain and the pain”) before the puncture or procedure. Based on the gate theory of nerve transmission, the vibratory and cold stimuli interfere with the ascending transmission of pain.

I’ve used the Buzzy for many weeks and have been impressed with

the results. Before introducing Buzzy to my practice, I volunteered to get a needlestick and found that it was virtually painless.

Many of my young patients were impressed with the device, and their parents were pleased as well. For children, the Buzzy also provides a nifty distraction, which has a definite calming effect.

My nurses and I have observed that it is more effective on children older than 5 years than younger patients. I now use it routinely for wart treatments (see above) and for children aged 6 years and older who appear to be excessively anxious about an upcoming vaccination.



Very affordable at \$40 each, every pediatrician should consider using Buzzy in his or her practice. To complement the device, Baxter also has created a variety of cards and posters featuring games with child-friendly characters and designs (as well as a Buzzy kazoo) to help with distracting children during painful procedures.

New resuscitator device

Those pediatricians who attend hospital deliveries are aware that there are new guidelines for neonatal resuscitation that were implemented this year. Traditionally, pediatricians use an anesthesia bag if a newborn requires positive pressure ventilations during resuscitation. With an anesthesia bag, even in the best of hands, it may be difficult to avoid

overinflating the lungs even though we use an inline manometer.

Premature infants are particularly susceptible to the consequences of lung overinflation. Such barotrauma may be avoided with the use of the **Neo-Tee** from Mercury Medical—the first *disposable* T-piece resuscitator device. This \$27 item includes an inline color-coded manometer as well as a pressure-relief valve that prevents overinflating of lungs. Bagging is not necessary because lung inflation is accomplished just by occluding an opening with a finger.

The unit requires setting the peak inspiratory as well as the peak end expiratory pressures before use, and each comes prepackaged with either a neonatal or infant anatomic face mask or a size 0 or 1 round silicone mask. The Neo-Tee is a welcome addition to our slowly growing repertoire of new devices to assist in resuscitation and newborn care.

Chemistry analyzer capability returns

Before CLIA '88 regulations went into effect in 1992, some high-volume pediatric practices found it worthwhile to perform serum chemistries in an office lab. For several decades, point-of-care chemistry analyzers were either not available or, as in the case of the iStat, just too expensive to consider using in a pediatric practice's office lab.

Recently Abaxis introduced its **Piccolo Xpress** chemistry analyzer for small office laboratories that perform numerous chemistry panels, both accurately and rapidly. Best of all, these tests are waived, cost a low \$10 to \$15 per panel, and use whole blood, so centrifugation is not necessary. Blood obtained by venipuncture