

A NOVEL RETROFITTABLE ANESTHESIA AGENT ALARM MONITOR

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Recall of intra-operative events occurs in approximately 0.1% of all general anesthetics¹. Many of these patients experience devastating psychological consequences such as post traumatic stress disorder, and despite awareness monitors, malpractice claims citing recall have remained relatively constant². One frequent and avoidable cause of anesthetic recall is an undetected empty vaporizer. It has been recognized in the anesthesia safety literature that the lack of an “empty” alarm on non-powered vaporizers is a glaring deficiency³. We now present the first such alarm, which is completely self contained, rechargeable, safe, effective and completely retrofittable.

In an effort to address the sight glass. The An-Alarm™ is manufactured from the highest quality inert materials and is designed to the highest tolerances. The An-Alarm™ uses a proprietary infrared detection system designed to be completely harmless to the naked eye, efficient in its power consumption, yet accurate and timely in its function. The An-Alarm™ features a visual and auditory alarm set to trigger when the liquid agent level in the sight glass indicates ten percent of reservoir capacity. The following figures illustrate the form and function of this novel device.



Figure 1: The An-Alarm™



Figure 2: The An-Alarm™ as installed



Figure 3: Close up of the An-Alarm™ display and control system. Scan with barcode reader.

1. Pollard RJ, Coyle JP, Gilbert RL, Beck J. Intraoperative awareness in a regional medical system. A review of 3 years data. *Anesthesiology* 2007;106:269–74.
2. http://www.apsf.org/newsletters/html/2008/summer/02_qanda.htm
3. <http://www.asahq.org/Knowledge-Base/Patient-Safety-Performance-and-Outcomes/ASA/Awareness-During-General-Anesthesia--ASA-Closed-Claims-Database-and-Anesthesia-Awareness-Registry.aspx>