Dialysis

Lester Coats, of Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis, has initiated a program to foster better understanding of the duties of dialysis personnel. "At one of our departmental meetings," he writes, "we found we were of the same opinion that both nurses and technicians knew only their separate duties concerning the dialysis unit. The nurses knew nothing of the supplies and equipment while the technicians were ignorant of the nursing duties. Patients in our home dialysis training program found it difficult to learn under these conditions."

"We decided to initiate a program of two weeks duration during which the nurses and technicians would trade jobs. The nurses were taught everything possible about the equipment and supplies while the technicians learned patient care. After the orientation, both groups resumed their regular duties."

"With this orientation each group developed an awareness, an appreciation, and a sensitivity of the other's responsibilities. Both could now function more efficiently and effectively. Patients now feel more at ease because relationships between nurse and technician have improved 100%. Since this program was begun, we have found the training program for patients has been shortened by an average of two weeks."

Oxygenation

On occasion, our cardiotomy reservoir gravity drainage system is inadequate for the volume of blood it is receiving. To correct this problem we have devised a bypass pump circuit to return this excessive volume to the oxygenator, thus preventing flooding and possible blood loss. This is accomplished by using two "Y" connectors and a length of 3/8" ID PVC tubing. When using the pump (see Illustration), clamps are applied to the gravity drainage line.

Submitted by Ralph Sheets and Smith Hogan, V.A. Hospital of Indianapolis.