

From the Editor

Dear Reader:

Volume 26(3) presents articles dealing with classic perfusion concerns, oxygenator performance and heparin dose response; new technology, biosurfaces and the thrombelastograph; and a case report describing the use of new technology, plasmapheresis, to deal with the patient with Sickle Cell Disease who requires cardiopulmonary bypass. The lecture should be of interest to all of us, since we are all in the position of being role models in one way or another.

There are also two articles that reflect current concerns in health care. Our lead article describes using outcomes research to compare the roller and constrained vortex pumps. We are being called upon to prove the cost effectiveness of devices and procedures. Measuring outcomes, such as hospital length of stay and homologous blood usage, provides a method to accomplish this. There is also a paper that presents a new method for monitoring the intra-aortic balloon pump from remote locations to allow cost effective delivery of this treatment modality.

Our challenge will be to continue basic research and develop new techniques and devices in this time of health care cost containment. The progress in cardiac surgery over the last twenty-five years can only be described as phenomenal, so many people have benefited from these advances. We must strive to protect all that is good about the American health care system, while we attempt to improve the delivery of patient care.

Sincerely,

Phyllis Palmer Stark, CCP
Editor

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