

ResMed Launches New Platform of Portable and Lightweight Ventilators

ResMed has introduced a new platform of portable, lightweight and user-friendly life support ventilators in select European and Asia-Pacific markets with the launch of the Astral™ 100 and Astral™ 150. Already a leading player with its Elisée™ and VS III™ devices, ResMed's new generation of Astral life support ventilators offer even greater mobility and ease of use for patients suffering from neuromuscular disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and other adult and childhood breathing disorders.



Astral™ 150

Astral 100 and Astral 150 life support ventilators offer excellent battery-to-weight ratios with an eight-hour internal battery and a weight of only 3.2 kilograms (about 7 pounds). Two optional eight-hour external batteries provide a total run-time of 24 hours. With this expanded mobility, chronically ill adult and pediatric patients who would otherwise be hospitalized may be safely treated away from the hospital for a more enriched life. Less time in the hospital can also mean a reduction in the cost of care.

Astral life support ventilators make setting up a patient and entering adjustments simple and straightforward with a large touchscreen display and easy-to-navigate graphic user interface. The touchscreen functionality can be accessed without removing the device from its travel bag for patients taking advantage of the ventilator's enhanced mobility.

Astral life support ventilators feature eight customizable breathing modes to ensure that patients receive optimal treatment to manage their specific respiratory requirements. Therapies can be adjusted depending on patient need, so patients can gradually be weaned off the ventilator after a period of time, if appropriate.

Astral life support ventilators are scheduled to be available in the U.S. later this year, pending FDA clearance.

NIH Grant Aims to Improve Critical Patient Care

Intubating and placing patients on ventilators saves lives, but also comes with risks for people who are critically ill. According to several studies, use of ventilators is associated with complications, such as pneumonia. Pneumonia in these patients occurs from many factors, including leakage of saliva and other fluids from the mouth into the lungs around the breathing tube, called aspiration.

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International Ventilator Users Network's mission is to enhance the lives and independence of home mechanical ventilator users and polio survivors through education, advocacy, research and networking.

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Away temporarily?

Send us your second address and dates you will be there and we'll do our best to send you our newsletter.

University of Central Florida College of Nursing Interim Dean and Orlando Health Distinguished Professor Mary Lou Sole seeks to improve the way nurses manage their patients' care when they need a ventilator.

In more than 20 years as a researcher and a practicing nurse, Sole found that many critically-ill patients have a lot of saliva and other fluids in the mouth increasing the risk of pneumonia, and she has developed a protocol to remove these fluids. The National Institutes of Health has awarded her a \$2.3 million grant to determine if regular removal of fluids that accumulate in the mouth and back of the throat can also help prevent aspiration.

Breas Acquired by PBM Capital

Breas Medical AB has been acquired from GE Healthcare by PBM Capital Group, a healthcare-focused private investment firm. Breas, headquartered in Sweden, is a leading manufacturer of home respiratory ventilators and sleep apnea products for the global healthcare market sold in more than 40 countries.

PBM Capital will integrate Breas into its Human Design Medical, a lifestyle medical device company focusing on the treatment of sleep apnea. Breas said that it “looks forward to leveraging our core efficient operation, our strong customer relationships and significant global breadth with an entrepreneurial owner that is focused on changing the respiratory industry.”

FSMA Care Series

The FSMA (Families of Spinal Muscular Atrophy) publishes a Care Series of booklets on a variety of specific topics including Breathing Basics: Respiratory Care for Children with Spinal Muscular Atrophy. All of the Care Series booklets are available in Spanish. Email info@fsma.org or call 800-886-1762.

Iron Lung Experiences Sought

Sherie Denham, CRT, Northwest Mississippi Regional Medical Center, Clarksdale, Mississippi, had an opportunity to purchase an iron lung for \$10 that was in storage at the facility where she works. With 25 years of experience, Denham cared for a woman who slept in an iron lung and was intrigued by the iron lung made by Fabrikators Inc. of Mass, Iron Lung Company of America, 19 Walnut Street, West Roxbury 32, Massachusetts. Denham would like to know more about this brand of iron lung and invites readers of *Ventilator-Assisted Living* to share their experiences, both as a health professional and as a patient. Send your comments to info@ventusers.org. ■

