

# HADASSAH DOCTORS INVENT CONTROL FOR INTRAVENOUS INFUSIONS

JERUSALEM -- One of the most troublesome and time-consuming tasks of the nursing staff on a surgical ward is the frequent adjustment needed to the flow rate of many intravenous infusion lines.

Most of the infusion clamps in current use do not ensure the maintenance of a constant flow rate. After the flow rate is initially set at the desired number of drops, it declines rapidly and within an hour reaches about half the original amount or even less. This may result in a particularly dangerous situation when nutrients or medications, which must be administered at a precise rate, are infused.

A new disposable plastic intravenous flow stabilizer for keeping constant the rate of flow of infusions into the patients' veins has been invented by Hadassah doctors. It is easy to use, enabling precise intravenous treatment, while relieving the nursing staff of the frequent checking and readjustment that are required with the intravenous sets in current use.

The new intravenous flow stabilizer (IFS) was invented by Dr. Neri Laufer and Engineer Dan Brun, both of the Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics; Dr. Azriel Perel, of the Department of Anesthesiology, and Dr. Herbert Freund, of the Department of Surgery. It is described in a recent issue of the Archives of Surgery.

The main cause for the decrease in the flow rate in the intravenous sets in current use is the flow control clamp, which regulates the flow rate by squeezing the plastic tube. This causes the flow opening in the tube to vary. However, because of the visco-elastic properties of the tube, the flow opening continues to change after the flow control clamp has been set, and a decrease in flow rate occurs.

The continuous lowering of the fluid level in the bottle, which holds the infusion fluid, is a second cause of the decrease of flow rate into the veins, because this reduces the pressure.

A third cause is the change of the patient's own venous pressure, although the effect of this is small.

The Hadassah team has invented a small disposable plastic flow stabilizer that is easily connected to the standard infusion set - up in hospitals. The central part of the stabilizer consists of a container, which houses a float valve, that regulates the infusion passage into the container and maintains a constant solution level in it. The float valve also decouples the pressure of the solution in the container. An automatic shut-off placed at the float valve bottom prevents air from entering the tube when the infusion solution bottle empties, and opens automatically when a new bottle is connected. An accurate flow adjustment screw is incorporated into the lowest part of the stabilizer.

As a result of these laboratory and clinical studies of the IFS, the Hadassah scientists recommend their device because it keeps the flow rate constant for many hours, uninfluenced by the fluid level in the bottle containing the infusion fluid, or by the viscoelastic properties of the tubing. This is in contrast to most standard sets and infusion clamps in which flow rate decrease occurs if the rate is not frequently readjusted. In addition, the IFS is easily and accurately regulated, and it prevents air entry into the intravenous line.

The new invention is being used in Hadassah, and the patent rights have been acquired in Germany and England.

## ISRAEL AGAIN ON UN AGENDA

UNITED NATIONS (WNS) -- The Middle East will again take up a great deal of the time of the General Assembly when the 33rd session opens September 19.

The situation in the Mideast and the "question of Palestine" will come up early in the Assembly debate. Israel, as usual, is expected to be under continued attack at

the session by the Arabs and their supporters. This year Israel will be represented at the UN by Prof. Yehuda Blum, a Hebrew University expert on international law, who arrived in New York with his family August 28.

He replaced Chaim Herzog who ended a three-year tour at the UN.

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## ISRAEL, EGYPT CUT DEFENSE SPENDING

LONDON (WNS) -- Israel and Egypt are both showing a dramatic cut in military spending during the current year, according to the International Institute for Strategic Studies here.

Figures in the Institute's book, "The Military Balance, 1978/9," published September 1, show that Israel is spending \$3.13 billion dollars this year, the lowest figure since the Yom Kippur War. Last year's figure was \$4.2 billion. The report places Egypt's spending at \$2.81 billion as compared to \$4.37 billion last year.

Saudi Arabia meanwhile will be spending \$9.63 billion as compared with \$7.5 billion last year. The increase included 174 American M60 medium tanks, 60 jet fighters, as well as a wide range of anti-tank and anti-aircraft missiles. Syria's defense spending is going up slightly \$1.12 billion from \$1.07 billion. The Saudis now overtake Israel as the country which spends the most per capita for arms. The Saudi Arabians will be spending \$1,704 for each person while Israel spends \$887.

The per capita figure in Israel last year was \$1,176 and Saudi Arabia, \$1,005. There is a suspicion that some of the Saudi arms will go to Egypt.

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