

Selecting an Anaesthesia System for Inpatient and Outpatient Use
ECRI Offers Product Comparisons and Purchasing Guidance

Selecting the appropriate anaesthesia system is key for hospitals in ensuring patient safety during surgery. ECRI, an independent, not for profit health services research agency, recently published an evaluation of six anaesthesia systems for full-range, inpatient surgical use and two anaesthesia systems designed for outpatient use. Two in-depth articles, published in consecutive issues of ECRI's Health Devices journal, provides product specifications and purchasing options, based on ECRI's first-hand testing, to assist healthcare facilities in selecting an anaesthesia system.

The choice of an anaesthesia system should be influenced by a variety of clinical, technical, and financial factors. ECRI offers guidance on features to consider during the selection process, such as patient range, adequacy of safety features, comprehensiveness of pre-use checks, and ease of use.

ECRI compares three inpatient models previously evaluated in 2002 (but still actively marketed) and three new inpatient models as well as two outpatient models, all marketed by Datex-Ohmeda or Draeger Medical. Key differences were noted between inpatient models: four of the six models received an acceptable rating and two received a preferred rating when equipped with specific options.

The two anaesthesia systems designed for outpatient use offered fewer features, making them a more economical choice and a better fit for the outpatient care setting. Healthcare facilities will find ECRI's recommendations essential in the selection and purchasing process.

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