

HOW TO OBTAIN THE OXIMETER

Within a few weeks after an overnight oximetry study has been prescribed by your doctor, you will receive a telephone call from a nurse who will explain where to get an oximeter, either at a CLSC or at the hospital. You will then need to make arrangements to pick it up.

HOW TO RETURN THE OXIMETER

The morning after the study, you should return the oximeter to the same location at which you picked it up.

WHEN WILL YOU RECEIVE THE RESULTS OF THE OXIMETRY STUDY?

Within the two weeks following the study, your doctor will contact you to give you the results or will ask you to make an appointment to see him or her.



NOTES

If you have any questions concerning picking up or installing the oximeter, you may contact the Home Care department:



Soins à Domicile
(514) 345-4931 ext. 6079

If you have any questions concerning the oximetry study, you may contact one of the nurses at the Pulmonary Clinic Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Clinique de Pneumologie
(514) 345-4931 poste 3900 ou 2767



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HÔPITAL
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*Le centre hospitalier
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Pour l'amour des enfants

OXIMETRY TEST




Information for parents

Université
de Montréal

WHAT IS AN OXIMETRY STUDY?

This is a recording obtained using a small portable instrument called a pulse oximeter. The oximeter is used to measure the percentage of oxygen saturation in the blood as well as the pulse rate over a period of time.

HOW TO INSTALL THE OXIMETER

- 1) Plug the oximeter into an electrical outlet.
*If you do not have a grounded electrical outlet (one that will take a three-prong plug), please inform the nurse. 

* Place the oximeter beside rather than above the bed of the child, in order to prevent accidents.

- 2) Install the sensor (attached by a wire to the oximeter) either on a finger, a toe, or on the foot (in the case of a baby).

*It is preferable to use a toe rather than a finger, as there is less risk that the sensor will accidentally come off during the study.

Two types of sensors may come with the oximeter, and the nurse will tell you which one to use.

- 3) Press the button to begin the recording.

You will see two numbers on the screen :

____ % saturation

____ pulse rate

IMPORTANT

You must change the site of the sensor every 2 to 4 hours and look at the skin at the site. This is important in order to reduce the risk of burns.



ALARMS



Certain visual and auditory alarms pertaining to the data recorded by the oximeter, i.e. the saturation and the heart heart, have to be adjusted so that they do not disturb your child's sleep. The nurse who lends you the instrument will adjust the alarm parameters before you take the oximeter home. She will also show you what to do if these alarms are triggered at home.

Here is how to proceed :



The alarms may be triggered in various situations, for example :

- If the sensor comes off :

What to do? Replace it..

- If the battery is weak :

What to do? Make sure the oximeter is properly plugged in.

- If the saturation or the heart rate are above or below the set limits

What to do? Check your child and take the necessary measures to correct the situation according to the recommendations that you have received.

NOTE

It is important to complete the « *Oximetry Observation Sheet* » during the study, as this sheet provides valuable information that will be used by the pulmonologist in the interpretation of the data.

- Write down the information indicated (time, oxygen level, saturation, pulse rate) at the beginning and end of the study, each time you change the position of the sensor, and whenever you attend to your child during the night.
- In the section « Activity at time of reading », please note what your child is doing as well as any other relevant information.
- This sheet should be returned with the oximeter.