

Cryoanalgesia for post-thoracotomy pain relief.

Freezing the intercostal nerves prior to closing the thorax has been demonstrated as an excellent method of post-thoracotomy pain relief.

Clinical evaluation has shown:

- 79% of patients were pain free post-operatively.⁽¹⁾
- Post-operative mobilisation was almost effortless and achieved earlier than with more conventional analgesics.⁽²⁾
- The value of cryoanalgesia is still significant beyond the initial post-operative period.⁽³⁾
- Risks of pulmonary, cardiovascular and embolic complications are greatly reduced.⁽¹⁾

(1) Maiwand, O. and Makey, A. R. (1981) 'Cryoanalgesia for Relief of Pain after Thoracotomy'. *British Medical Journal*, 282 1749-50

(2) Maiwand, O., Makey A. R. and Sanmuganathan, S. (1982) 'Increased Effectiveness of Physiotherapy after Cryoanalgesia Following Thoracotomy'. *Physiotherapy*, 68 No 9

(3) Orr et al (1983) 'Post-Thoracotomy Pain Relief: Combined Use of Cryoprobe and Morphine Infusion Techniques'. *Annals of the Royal College of Surgeons of England*, 65 366-369.

The Spembly Medical 140 Cryo Unit and its associated Maiwand probe has been specifically designed for implementing the technique.

The probe configuration allows excellent visibility of the operating site whilst producing an iceball of sufficient size to give a localised and effective freeze of the nerve.

The unit with its rapid freeze and defrost action, footswitch control and range of speciality probes is also ideal for inter-departmental use.

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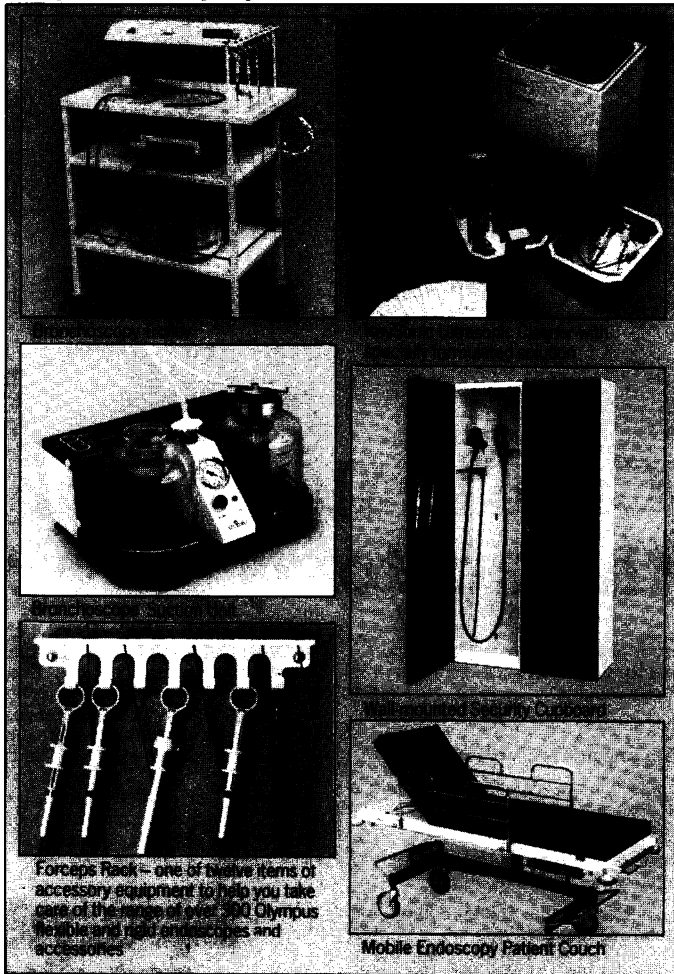
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