

CASE STUDY

Acute Care > Case #103

CO Screening at Local Health Fair Identifies Recurring "Mystery" Illness

Masimo Rad-57™ Detects CO Poisoning to End Chronic Suffering

Location Kingsport, Tennessee

Clinician Reporting Lou Ann White - Clinical Educator, RRT, NPS, Holston Valley Hospital

Patient Event Random CO Screening Leads to Proper Diagnosis

> The Situation

During a community health fair sponsored by Holston Valley Hospital and other local health providers, a woman in her mid-40s approached the hospital's booth and asked for a free screening. Since it was a winter event and people were spending more time indoors, the hospital decided it was the perfect time to put their new portable, handheld Masimo Rad-57 Pulse CO-Oximeter to good use by offering free SpO₂ and carbon monoxide (CO) screenings.

Before being tested, the woman completed a detailed health questionnaire and listed recurring bouts of flu-like symptoms, including nausea, headaches and chronic fatigue, as current complaints. Although the questionnaire had already established that the woman was a non-smoker and did not work in an environment that would expose her to elevated levels of CO, the clinician used the Rad-57 to measure the woman's carboxyhemoglobin (SpCO®) blood level and made a shocking discovery. Her SpCO measurement was nearly 19%, indicating a significant amount of CO poisoning in her blood.



Lou Ann White helped a health fair attendee to identify her "mystery" illness thanks to the Rad-57.

> The Masimo Difference

The clinician continued to interview the woman at-length to identify how she had become so poisoned and found that one of her favorite things to do during the cold weather was curl up on the couch in front of her gas log fireplace. This was the missing piece of the puzzle that the clinician was looking for. With the "mystery" illness now properly diagnosed and the source of the exposure identified, the woman was finally able to get the treatment she needed and the repairs her gas log fireplace needed to end her CO poisoning nightmare.

"Detecting CO poisoning with the Masimo Radical-57 is remarkably accurate. The quick, non-invasive screening helped this woman finally understand why she was so sick."

— Lou Ann White, RRT, NPS, Clinical Educator, Holston Valley Hospital

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