

No Rest for the Weary

The Masimo Rad-8® Virtually Eliminated the False Alarms

Location Great Falls, MT

Clinician Reporting Barbara Brokl, RRT

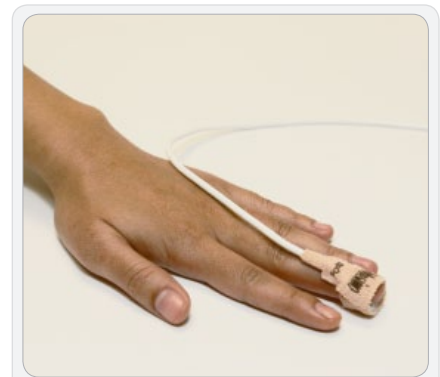
Patient Event False Alarms Burden Both Patient & Caregiver

> The Situation

The winter of 2007 brought one of my most heart-wrenching cases. My new patient, a 13-year-old girl had already suffered six strokes and various heart and lung complications due to birth defects. She required ongoing oxygen services and needed a pulse oximeter to continually monitor her oxygen saturation and warn of potential strokes and other complications, in addition to a respiratory assist device to keep her airway open while she slept.

My home healthcare company called me in after the patient's most recent hospital visit. While doing the O₂ setup, I noticed that she habitually fidgeted. She also leaned on her hands, which caused poor perfusion in her fingers. As a result, the pulse oximeter alarm sounded about every 15 seconds, mostly from artifacts and false positives due to low perfusion and patient motion.

The patient's mom said the alarms continued round-the-clock. At night, when her respiratory symptoms intensified, Mom got only 15 minutes of sleep between alarms. She looked haggard and exhausted. "I can't ignore the alarms because they could mean something life-threatening – like another stroke – which would mean we have to rush her to the emergency room," she confided.



Rad-8 with Masimo SET technology helps eliminate false alarms

> The Masimo Difference

Determined to help this patient and her mom with their pulse oximetry problem, I contacted my regional clinical manager and asked if she knew of an oximeter that would work better in the presence of motion and with poor circulation. She researched it and then emailed me information about the Rad-8 Pulse Oximeter with Masimo SET® (Signal Extraction Technology).

We ordered a Rad-8 and set the alarms as the pediatrician directed. I installed the device and secured an infant sensor to the patient because her hands were so under-developed that the pediatric sensor was too big for her. At my follow-up visits, I was delighted to see how well the Rad-8 performed.

The Rad-8 measured through motion artifacts and low perfusion much better than the old pulse oximeter did and it didn't alarm nearly as much. The signal processing technology canceled out the noise and gave more accurate arterial oxygen saturation and pulse rate readings.

Today, my patient's homecare is going so well that she hasn't required another hospital stay. Her mom is resting much better now and has become a more relaxed primary caregiver because she's no longer bombarded with false alarms. Now, when an oximeter alarm occurs, which is much less frequent because the Masimo Rad-8 has virtually eliminated the false alarms, Mom knows it's something she really needs to address.

"The Masimo Rad-8 Pulse Oximeter made a huge difference in my daughter's life and mine,"

— Patient's Mom