

Design Challenge: O₂ Concentrator

Drive Device

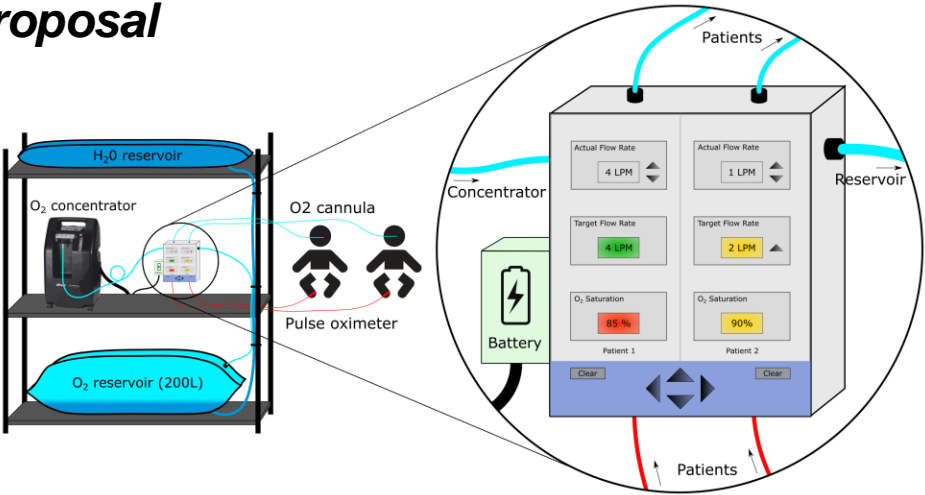


- Small, compact 10L concentrator
- Filters nitrogen from ambient air and produces concentrated oxygen
- Low operating costs
- Needs power supply → O₂ cylinders used to overcome power outage (higher operating costs)⁽¹⁾
- Extensive training needed for appropriate use

Device rating of appropriateness in low-resource settings:

Cost: \$ \$
Effectiveness: ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Durability: ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Usage: ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Design Proposal



Reservoir

- Lower bag: one internal chamber for oxygen storage, one filled with water
- Excess oxygen from therapy stored in the chamber which pushes the water to the upper reservoir
- Power outage: Pressure of the water from above provides force to move the oxygen out of the reservoir to the patient
- Provides 200 min of supply at a demand of 1 L/min or 67 min at 3 L/min
- Only dependent on pressure difference between water and O₂; no power needed
- >2 years of operation without complete failure⁽¹⁾

easy/O₂op

- Integrated pulse oximeter connected to patients
- Provides information about O₂ saturation, actual O₂ flow and target O₂ flow
- O₂ target flow calculated by easy/O₂op
- Actual rate flow adjusted by medical staff depending on target rate flow
- Check in first after 5 min, 1 hour later and then every 4 hours
- When O₂ saturation below 92% → alarm rings
- Oxygen can be split in min. 2 tubes

Design Proposal rating of appropriateness in low-resource settings:

Cost: \$ \$ \$
Effectiveness: ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Durability: ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Usage: ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

(1) Rassool, R. P., Sobott, B. A., Peake, D. J., Mutetire, B. S., Moschovis, P. P., & Black, J. F. (2017). A low-pressure oxygen storage system for oxygen supply in low-resource settings. *Respiratory Care*, 62(12), 1582–1587. <https://doi.org/10.4187/respcare.05532>