

PIRS 2016 - Circuit error

Permission to print:	Yes
Incident type	Near Miss
Type of incident:	Management
Catagory	Circuit error
Description:	<p>I set up the pump in the usual manner but put the sucker tubing into the pump head in the wrong direction. I checked the occlusion but did not detect my mistake. Before initiating bypass the surgeon asked for the sucker to be turned on. He then complained that the sucker was blowing instead of sucking. I discovered the mistake and reinserted the pump sucker tubing in the correct orientation. I was unusually tired on the day, the only Perfusionist on duty that day and I was hurrying to setup the second case. There is no vacuum relief valve, one way valve or other indicator for easily identify which way this tubing should be placed in the run way. I immediately reinserted the pump sucker tubing into the pump in the correct orientation.</p>
Preventive actions	<p>Some weeks prior to this incident I has discussed with the chief perfusionist the potential hazard of having unmarked sucker and vent tubing. We had drawn up and submitted changes to our tubing pack by the addition of a valved vacuum relief valve on both sucker and vent tubing. We had these valves placed close to the pump for a quick visual check of tube orientation. Unfortunately these changes had not come through at the time of the incident.</p>
GOOD CATCH - what went	<p>The GOOD CATCH that averted a potential life threatening left heart air embolus (reversed vent pre cross clamp) was the physical test of the vent by the team pre CPB. While one way vaccum relief valves offer a level of protection, the value of this manoevre (dipping the vent and running pre CPB) as a routine is "what went well" in this case</p>
Protocol issue	No
Rule issue	Yes
Skill issue	Yes
Team Issue	No
Violation	No
Manufacturer advised:	No
Discussed with team:	No
Hospital incident filed:	No
Ext Authority Advised	No
Procedure acuity:	Elective
Commentary	<p>This was a very GOOD CATCH. The value of confirming the direction of the vent tubing (and all pump tubings) on a pre CPB checklist is an additional consideration. Reversal of pump tubing has the potential for serious harm</p>