

# 2022 Oxygenator - leak

Permission to print: Yes

Category: Oxygenator

Incident type: Good Catch Near Miss

Duration of incident: minutes

Description: During priming for a cardiac case in theatre using the Terumo System One and the Medtronic Fusion oxygenator, it was noticed that there was a puddle of clear fluid under the oxygenator. We routinely attached our heater cooler water lines to the dry setup circuit to test for leaks prior to priming. It was assumed the puddle on the floor was from the water lines [rather than the oxygenator] so they were drained and connections checked. The connections were then doubled checked and refilled the water lines to see the leak was still under the oxygenator. I dried the floor and oxygenator and then took the water lines completely off. The oxygenator was still leaking. A nurse confirmed that she also noticed the leak. The fluid was coming from the gas vent at the base of the oxygenator (see photo)./ The decision was then made to change out the oxygenator which was done with no problem. The new oxygenator was used without incident.

GOOD CATCH - what went well: The oxygenator fault was seen during priming, after working through all possible causes, the decision to change the oxy was the right call.

What could we do better: Nothing I believe

Preventive actions: The oxygenator is being returned to the manufacturer for investigation. change to the current setup or timing of priming

Type of incident: Equipment

Hospital incident filed: No

Ext Authority Advised: No

Discussed with team: Yes

Manufacturer advised: Yes

Commentary: Oxygenator fibre leaks are rare and usually minimal with reports where this has become apparent during the procedure but changeout has not been required as adequate function has been maintained. This good catch describes a "puddle" and continuing leak during priming that suggests a significant leak fortuitously picked up prior to CPB. PIRS Ed

