

## Trends & Technology

### It's curtains for Darvon (Propoxyphene)

The FDA said Friday that Xanodyne Pharmaceuticals had agreed to halt all U.S. marketing of Darvon and the related brand Darvocet, which contain the drug propoxyphene. The agency also called on generic drugmakers to stop marketing low-cost drugs containing propoxyphene. Propoxyphene, which was approved in the 1957, is an opioid narcotic used to treat mild to moderate pain. About 10 million people in the U.S. received prescriptions for Darvon and related drugs in 2009, according to the FDA. The most popular form of the drug currently is Darvocet, which combines propoxyphene with the more common painkiller acetaminophen. At an FDA meeting in 2009, officials cited studies showing most of the pain relief from Darvocet came from the acetaminophen. Other commonly prescribed drugs in the same class are oxycodone and codeine.

### Anaesthesia Roll Labels

Anaesthesia Roll Labels. The new PharmaTags roll labels are colour-coded and preprinted to help prevent medication errors. The generous dimensions of the labels and the easy-to-read bold print allow comprehensive marking and clear identification. The easy-to-use tags are coated with a strong adhesive. Colour coding meets ASTM, JCAHO, FDA and ISMP guidelines. Supplied in rolls of 500 individual labels.



Anaesthesia Roll Labels Sharn, Inc. [mailbox@sharn.com](mailto:mailbox@sharn.com)

### Gas Analyser for Routine Clinical Use.

Max is specially designed for monitoring of adults, children and infants in anaesthesia and intensive care. With a clear, easy-to-view display and an intuitive interface, vital information is easily accessed. The analyser is equipped with a comprehensive alarm system comprising both visual and audible warning signals. A standard battery back-up ensures two hours of uninterrupted operation. The system incorporates InfraRed Mainstream Analyser (IRMA) technology and does not require any routine calibration, thus reducing operating expenses. Simply connect an IRMA probe, turn the power on and start measuring. IRMA probes are available in a wide



choice of configurations from a simple CO<sub>2</sub>-only version, to the most comprehensive probe offering CO<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O and five anaesthetic agents. The gas analyser can be easily upgraded to meet future requirements.

Phasein AB

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### Automated blood collection system

Red cells represent the most frequently transfused blood component. Historically, red cells have been manually separated from whole blood, yielding one transfusable dose of red cells from one blood donation. Automation improves the efficiency, reliability and cost-effectiveness of blood collection. The Cymbal next-generation automated red cell collection system, which received the CE mark in February 2006, is compact in size, battery-operated and easy to use. The system is currently CE approved for non-leukoreduced indications for autologous, allogeneic and therapeutic collections and is being sold in France, Germany, Austria and the Czech Republic. Automated blood collection system



Haemonetics International

### Airway RIFL-New Fiberoptic laryngoscopes

Every anesthesiologist must have faced a situation of failure to ventilate and failure to intubate. Many new inventions to address this problem have been introduced during the recent past; of these, flexible and rigid fiberoptic laryngoscopes are at the forefront. Many versions of these two entities have been marketed. A Michigan State University professor-turned-medical device entrepreneur, John Schwartz, working with his brother Richard, an MSU graduate and Medical College of Georgia emergency room physician, developed the Airway RIFL (Rigid Intubating Fiberoptic Laryngoscope). The Airway RIFL facilitates placement of a flexible plastic tube into the trachea of patients to protect the airway and allow mechanical ventilation. The procedure is especially difficult to perform on those suffering cervical spine injuries. Schwartz's innovation was an articulated insertion tube to better navigate the trachea, combined with fiber optics for remote vision. The second generation of the device is nearing commercial production, he said, and he is meeting with prospective manufacturers this week seeking to have the injection-molded devices made in Michigan.

