

Occlusions cause a rise in pressure in the IV line, so IV pumps fitted with ILPM are able to detect this rise in pressure early and sound an alarm, allowing the user to take corrective measures before the patient suffers any serious chemical damage” Gouveia (2016).

Abstract:

Intravenous (IV) infusions are an essential part of hospital patient care, but occlusions in peripheral cannulae are common. One of the most dangerous consequences of occlusion (blockage) is extravasation—the non-intentional leakage of infused vesicant fluid into the tissue surrounding the vein—as it can lead to long-term, or even permanent, tissue damage. Adults and children are affected, with preterm neonates being particularly vulnerable.

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In-line pressure monitoring (ILPM) can help identify occlusions early and help prevent complications such as extravasation and infiltration. Occlusions cause a rise in pressure in the IV line, so IV pumps fitted with ILPM are able to detect this rise in pressure early and sound an alarm, allowing the user to take corrective measures before the patient suffers any serious chemical damage. ILPM also helps prevent or minimise other consequences of in-line occlusions such as suboptimal medicine dosing, patient distress, and economic costs to NHS trusts.

Reference:

Gouveia, S.M. (2016) In-line pressure monitoring in IV infusions: benefits for patients and nurses. *British Journal of Nursing*. 25(19), p.S28-S33.

10.12968/bjon.2016.25.19.S28

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