What is an oxygen concentrator and how do I use it?

As far as the current situation in India is concerned, you must have heard, "India needs oxygen, people are dying, and no one cares about that." Later, that statement caught the attention of the Supreme Court, which asked for oxygen cylinders to be sent.

Until then, they were required to use special machines. If you come in contact with someone who needs oxygen or oxygen therapy, then you may have heard a familiar term, oxygen concentrators. These basic devices are manufactured to separate the nitrogen from the collected mixture of oxygen and nitrogen and filter it sufficiently to provide a stream of oxygen-rich air to the body to help them breathe air safely.

Industrial vs. Standard Units of Oxygen Concentrators

While the use of oxygen concentrators is limited to helping patients breathe safely, they are also used in a variety of other ways. Doctors cannot use them to treat patients due to the huge oxygen emergencies that are occurring in the country.

Industrial oxygen generators are used for high concentration functions that medical oxygen generators cannot handle. They are not overseen by the FDA, indicating that they are not made for medical use. The difference is in the way the concentrated oxygen is pumped. Industrial oxygen machines use a variety of different chemicals to produce oxygen. Meanwhile, medical oxygen machines do not require the help of any chemicals in producing highly concentrated oxygen because it is considered safe for patient use.

How to choose

When looking for an oxygen machine, it has become quite confusing as there are various types of oxygen machines available. We have identified some of the most common and desired features that will help you distinguish the ideal product for your needs.

Flow rate

It indicates the rate of flow of oxygen from the machine to the patient's body. Each person needs a specific flow rate, which is usually recommended by the doctor.

Therefore, it is recommended to discuss any of the preceding details before purchasing a concentrator. Each concentrator has a different flow rate; some may have a higher flow rate than another, and vice versa.

Portability

This is the most important but also the most common feature to look for before purchasing a concentrator. While the flow rate also determines the need for portability, a higher flow rate means a heavier machine that will rely on more energy to work, and in order to reduce the volume, you need to sacrifice flow rate. You choose based on your significant needs and your level of remoteness.

Oxygen concentration

The specific percentage of oxygen delivered after it has been filtered and compressed is known as the oxygen concentration. Most products offer typical percentages of 87% to 99%, with variations between oxygen generators. Heavier machines and higher flow rates require higher concentration percentages. If you pay attention, it is best to do so because not many patients need a higher concentration percentage.

These features are one of the most important when choosing an oxygen machine, depending on your needs.

How to set up your oxygen machine

There are a few key points to keep in mind when setting up your oxygen machine.

First, place the oxygen machine 1-2 feet away from the wall and the patient. This is necessary because the machine needs to circulate air in the proper space. They also tend to get hot when in use, which can cause problems with patience or any nearby furniture.

Humidification bottles also need to be added if requested by your doctor. Make sure the oxygen flow rate is higher than 2-3 LPM. then fit the cap of the humidification bottle into the outlet of the concentrator. Twist the bottle slowly to check that it is safe to use.

Connect the oxygen tube to the humidification bottle.

Make sure the concentrator is turned on at least 15-20 minutes in advance, as time is needed to maintain the correct concentration. There is also an air inlet filter that helps to clean the air. Make sure you put it in before the machine is turned on and you can clean it once after a while.

Once the machine is turned on, you will hear the loud sound of the year being processed. Don't forget to check the indicators.

Find the liter knob on the machine and set it according to the amount of oxygen needed per minute. Remember, too much oxygen can cause lung toxicity.

Make sure the tubing is not bent. If you are using a nasal cannula, adjust your nostrils for higher concentration and better breathing.

Follow these steps, and here your oxygen machine is ready to use and safe.

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