

Tri-anim Health Services

Peer Review:

H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center
Tom Strait
Tampa, , FL

OxyMask™ Open Oxygen System

I have been doing respiratory therapy for the last 20 years and have seen many types of devices come and go. I believe that the OxyMask™ is a good product and will be around for a long time.

We have a diverse population of patients, all with cancer, and are faced with many difficult situations where a mask instead of a cannula is used more often than in a regular hospital setting. The OxyMask has become a very popular mask since we can use it anywhere from 1 lpm to 40 lpm.

We have tried it on many patients and in many different situations. We have found that by going to the OxyMask we were able to reduce therapist time and cost of supplies. With the OxyMask we would place the mask, turn it up to 15 lpm and then titrate to the desired SaO₂. What we used to do was start the patient on a 50% venti mask with a 6 lpm cannula on under it, then usually go up to a non-rebreather mask if needed. This would require the therapist to wait to see if the patient would respond so that the masks could be changed if needed. In some cases, the patient would begin to have problems with the nasal cannula running at 6 lpm under the mask.

With the OxyMask, once the mask is placed and the patient begins to respond, the therapist can leave and the nurse will take over the titration of the mask. The nurse would be told to keep a pulse oximeter on the patient and titrate to keep the SaO₂ greater than 92%.

We have also placed the OxyMask in use in our Direct Referral Center. It is like an ER, but for our current cancer patients. At first the mask was not well accepted because the doctors wanted the non-rebreather masks. Once they saw how quickly the OxyMask was able to increase the SaO₂ on the patients, the physicians were okay with using the mask. After some education to all of the hospital staff and physicians, the OxyMask has overwhelmingly become the mask of choice at our facility, replacing the non-rebreather and venti mask.