

SSCOR Introduces Compact New Suction

By Thom Dick

SSCOR has introduced a new portable suction device called QuickDraw that's different from anything you've ever seen. It's the size of a piece of 10"-long four-by-four lumber—small enough to fit into an airway kit. It weighs a little more than two pounds, and its stubby little tip is designed for emergency suction. The battery pack is removable, and you can replace it with an optional cartridge that accommodates AA-size penlight batteries. The tip is part of a removable 300-cc single-use reservoir that you can replace and seal in about three seconds.

Consider some of the assumptions that drove the designs of just about every motorized field suction device you've ever seen. They're modeled after hospital machines, with big reservoirs, long collection tubes, and high vacuum and airflow rates. When you put those characteristics together in the field, you need a big motor, a big battery to power it, a big case to hold it and a shoulder strap to carry it.

When was the last time you filled up a one-liter reservoir in a portable suction device? Chances are, it was more than 10 years ago, when most of us used oxygen-powered resuscitators and EOAs (esophageal obturator airways). That pair of tools probably turned more of our customers into victims than beneficiaries.

The issue of reservoir size is critical. It dictates airflow, because airflow and volume determine pumpdown time—the amount of time it takes for the pump to evacuate the air in the reservoir before producing a given vacuum at the tip of the catheter.

Because most of today's cardiac arrest patients are bag-ventilated and intubated, they don't tend to vomit so often (or so much). That's important, because it means your portable suction doesn't need a collection canister the size of a beer keg.

This pump's maximum vacuum is about the same as most suction units at 550 mmHg. A bypass vent on the reservoir will drop that to 120 mmHg, and you can easily adapt it to fit a flexible suction catheter.

Recent research at UCLA indicates that despite its low airflow (10–13 LPM instead of more than 30), the new S-SCORT out-



SSCOR's new portable suction device, QuickDraw.



performs its bigger cousins using ISO standard simulated vomitus. Field tests are in progress at the time of this writing, and the equipment should be in production as you read this article.

Depending on how you want it configured, QuickDraw will cost between \$300 and \$550. Patents are pending. ■

Thom Dick has been involved in EMS for 34 years, 23 of them as a full-time EMT and paramedic in San Diego County. He currently serves as quality care coordinator for Pridemark Paramedics in the Denver area. Contact him at Boxcar414@aol.com.

Photos by Thom Dick

Reprinted with permission from EMS Magazine
www.emsmagazine.com