



BABY'S BREATH: A PRECIOUS GIFT

By Lisa Rapple M.Ed, RRT

Newborn babies, especially pre-term ones, are the smallest, most vulnerable and most delicate patients that we care for. However, they can be the biggest fighters in the struggle for life. Babies must wage battle when confronted with hypoxic respiratory failure associated with pulmonary hypertension, an insidious contributor to mortality in newborn and pre-term infants. One of the tools we use to help babies combat this type of hypoxia is, of course, nitric oxide (NO).

When persistent pulmonary hypertension of the newborn (PPHN) occurs, pulmonary vascular resistance (PVR) is high, resulting in right-to-left shunting of blood through the patent ductus arteriosus and foramen ovale. This results in hypoxia. Nitric oxide is used to relax vascular smooth muscle, which causes vasodilation in the better ventilated areas of the lung resulting in less shunting and an improvement in oxygenation.

Nitric oxide is administered by inhalation using a commercially produced blended gas. This gas, known as INOmax, is a precisely blended mixture of nitric oxide and nitrogen.

The INOmax site is very informative and very easy to navigate

I recently visited the excellent Internet web site for INOmax (www.inomax.com) and learned that the company that produces INOmax is an international pharmaceutical company named Ikaria.

Their mission statement indicates the focus of the company. "Ikaria is a multi-national specialty pharmaceutical company, with

core competencies in the development and marketing of drugs and drug delivery devices. Our efforts are concentrated on supporting health care professionals who care for the critically ill. We are committed to research and development focused on meeting unmet medical needs in critical care medicine."

The home page of the INOmax Web site gives a brief description of INOmax and a summary of safety information. The navigation bar at the top of the page allows you to access more detailed product information, including: all of the full-text manuals for INOtherapy delivery devices, specifically designed to deliver NO mixtures, a referenced description of the product, how INOmax is supplied, drug delivery devices, economics of therapy, manufacturing, obtaining INOmax and a 32-page reimbursement guide that includes a coding information reference sheet, a sample UB-04 claim form, a CA Medicaid alert, the INOtherapy reimbursement newsletter, a reimbursement college link, reimbursement and managed care advisory board, reimbursement articles and a letter of medical necessity.

There is also a contact form to contact the company and share comments or ask questions. Most of the pages contain a quick link to the package insert and terms of use.

When you use the horizontal navigation bar, a second horizontal navigation bar appears on each sub-page, so be sure to page through all the information. This second set of clickable titles is easily overlooked but valuable, so don't pass over it.

From each of the site's pages, there are three vertical links in the left margin. The first one is called "Quick Links," and it reiterates product information. The second is called "Clinical Information," which provides numerous links to downloadable PowerPoint materials, as well as information on safety and efficacy, key trial data, the INO mechanism of action, a case study series and clinical white papers. The third vertical link, titled "Important News," redirects you to the parent company's Web site, www.ikaria.com, for current news events.

You will need Adobe Acrobat Reader to view the manuals and package insert available at the site.

The INOmax site is very informative and very easy to navigate. Just be aware of the second horizontal navigation bar, so as not to overlook any materials you may be searching for. If you are looking for educational materials about nitric oxide administration, the PowerPoint materials are professionally made and will make it very easy to prepare a presentation.

For more information, visit www.inomax.com or call (877) 566-9466.

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"In lieu of offering workers a formal health plan, I recommend they drink a lot of chicken soup."