

Onyx® in the Dental Office:

Patient Care is Enhanced with Addition of Pulse Oximetry as an Assessment Tool



The original all-in-one digital fingertip pulse oximeter™

Recognizing the importance of pulse oximetry as integral to enhanced patient care, the American Dental Association adopted new guidelines in October 2002 regarding conscious sedation (including the use of nitrous oxide), deep sedation, and general anesthesia. Those guidelines, intended to improve patient care and safety, require that “oxygen saturation must be evaluated continuously by pulse oximetry.”

Nonin has long been known for its innovation in pulse oximetry. By creating small, simple, reliable, and durable pulse oximeters, we’ve earned the trust of clinicians worldwide. And our Onyx® – the original all-in-one digital fingertip pulse oximeter™ – is a shining example of our unparalleled dedication to accurate and innovative pulse oximeters. But what do dental offices around the United States think about the Onyx?

To find out, Nonin solicited the feedback of three dental offices in California, Minnesota, and New York. After using the Onyx for nearly 400 on-site spot checks, the response from the field was overwhelmingly positive: a majority of participants called the Onyx a convenient, easy-to-use device for patient screening and assessment.

About the Study

Nonin solicited the feedback of three dental offices from throughout the United States. Each location was provided with between two and five Onyx pulse oximeters for use by designated clinicians for 30 days as part of their routine screening and patient assessment practices. Participants were instructed to carry the Onyx with them, record SpO₂ and pulse rate data when screening patients, document any resulting interventions, and provide candid feedback. The following sites participated in the study:

- Rancho Endodontic Associates; Eric Pettersen, D.D.S. – Murrieta, California
- Wayzata Dental – Wayzata, Minnesota
- David Weiner, D.D.S. – Smithtown, New York

Patient Interventions

- **6%** of spot checks performed during this study resulted in patient interventions. Those interventions included administration of supplemental oxygen and titration of inhaled sedation.

Favorite Features

The size, simplicity, and convenience of the Onyx were favorite features among dental professionals, who also favored its accuracy and automatic operation. After testing the Onyx on-site for 30 days, **100 percent** of participants called the Onyx “very easy” to incorporate into their routine screening and patient assessment practices.

Ease of use and convenience were essential concerns for dental professionals, who were impressed with the Onyx’s size and portability. One participant happily reported, “The Onyx was simple for the whole staff to use, and there was no learning curve.” Participants also appreciated the Onyx’s automatic on/off feature, and were glad that it required no setup or adaptive devices.

Participants were impressed with the fast, reliable readings they obtained from the Onyx. For them, the speed of the Onyx equated to greater patient satisfaction. Consider the following responses from the field:

- **The Onyx is a great adjunct in monitoring our patients. We compared it to other pulse oximeters and found it to be just as accurate and reliable.**
- **Any monitoring is helpful in ensuring patient stability.**
- **The pulse rate was as accurate as our other cuffs and monitors.**
- **The size of the Onyx allows you to keep it in your pocket or in a drawer.**
- **Our patients were impressed with how quickly the Onyx could be used, and they were also impressed with its size.**

While general dentistry offices don’t often encounter large numbers of required medical interventions, the Onyx clearly



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provides dental professionals with a simple tool for quick and efficient patient assessment. For these dentists – and thousands of other satisfied customers – Nonin’s Onyx is an easy-to-use time-saver that improves patient care. This small, durable, accurate, dependable, and remarkably simple device is the perfect tool for making pulse oximetry a part of your routine screening and patient assessment practices.

PureLight® and PureSAT® Technologies

Like all Nonin sensors, the Onyx features PureLight technology, which boasts pure red and infrared LEDs to create unparalleled accuracy – even at critical SpO₂ levels. Nonin’s PureLight LEDs hold a steady calibration curve – even at SpO₂ levels below 80 percent.

Nonin has long recognized that accurate and dependable SpO₂ readings start with accurate and dependable sensors, and we’re proud to have been using our PureLight technology for over twelve years.

Nonin’s PureSAT technology makes greater use of signal characteristics for artifact rejection, using improved pulse detection technology for faster, more precise pulse detection and quick readings. With these technologies built into every device, Nonin delivers performance to customers who demand accuracy in the most challenging environments.



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