

Acknowledgements

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Sir,

Patient-controlled alerting device (PAD)

We read with interest the study by Mokashi *et al.*¹ who compared a patient-controlled audible alert device (PAD) with a hand holder as a means of communication and method for reducing anxiety in patients undergoing cataract extraction under local anaesthesia. They are to be commended for designing a safe and effective PAD, which patients found as reassuring as a hand holder.



Figure 1 All components of the wireless doorbell.



Figure 2 A theatre nurse demonstrating use of the device.

However, not all units have the skills available to construct a similar device. We have found a cheap alternative in the form of a wireless doorbell that is available from most DIY outlets (Figures 1 and 2). This bell is easy to activate and makes a distinctive chime, familiar to most patients. Before using it in the theatre environment the device was checked by our local Medical Physics Department to ensure it would not interfere with any medical equipment. It should be remembered that the use of a PAD does not remove the requirement for careful monitoring of the patient during the procedure.

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