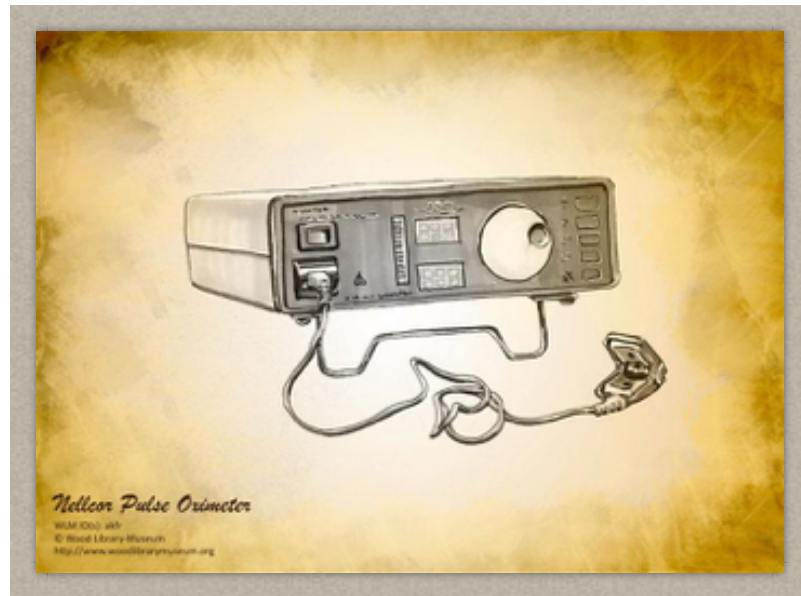


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NELLCOR PULSE OXIMETER

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Pulse oximeters revolutionized how anesthesiologists ensure that their patients get enough oxygen. Before the practical pulse oximeter was developed, physicians had to use expensive and time-consuming methods to measure oxygen levels, which posed adverse risks for the patient. With no skin puncture necessary, pulse oximeters use fast pulsing wavelengths of light to detect and calculate what percentage of a patient's oxygen-transporting hemoglobin is saturated with oxygen.

In 1981, anesthesiologist William New and two colleagues formed a new company called Nellcor. Their first pulse oximeter, called the Nellcor N-100, in 1983. It quickly became a favored device. The device was not only accurate and relatively portable, it incorporated a feature brand new to pulse oximetry technology: specifically, a sound indicator that reflected the rate of the pulse as well as the SpO₂. If the SpO₂ dropped, the pitch of the pulsing sound. Nellcor released the N-180, pictured here, around 1987.

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