

The effective power output of the Taurus 301 blood warmer when warming small volume units of red cell concentrate described using simulated blood products

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**Thesis Presented for the Degree of
Master of Medicine (MMed) in Anaesthesia
In the Department of Anaesthesia and Perioperative Medicine**

Faculty of Health Sciences

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN



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Date of first submission: 2023/06/12
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Format and Acknowledgements

Professor Ian Mason is acknowledged for his role in the development of a remarkable medical device, and moreover, for supporting this effort to fully understand the same.

This manuscript has been made to comply with the University of Cape Town guidelines of 2017 for MMed minor dissertations and will adopt the monograph format.

Referencing is as per the Vancouver style.

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Abstract

Background and Literature review

At Groote Schuur Hospital, the lead anaesthesiologist in the cardiothoracic team, J. Ozinsky, identified the need for a device capable of warming blood rapidly prior to transfusion. Such a device was subsequently developed as a collaborative effort between the Department of Anaesthetics and Department of Electrical Engineering at the University of Cape Town. The device became known as the “Taurus” blood warmer, namesake of the Head of Department at the time, and clinical leader of the project, Prof. A.B. Bull. A subsequent version of the Taurus, which warms blood within the bag in which it is packaged, remains in active clinical service at Groote Schuur Hospital.

Literature search reveals that devices which employed electromagnetic radiation for warming of blood and blood products were met with resistance following many case reports of haemolysis induced by warming. A common theme identified was that of elevated risk of haemolysis, due to local overheating, in blood products of high haematocrit (HCT) and small volume. The Taurus 301 performance has been evaluated extensively and the device used for over 30 years. Without any literature available to suggest that the device is overtly harmful it may be concluded that the device design is one that may be drawn upon with confidence especially for these blood products at elevated risk of haemolysis. The Taurus range of blood warmers represent the only examples of a radio-frequency blood warmers that were made available commercially for clinical use.

In 1996 fire swept through the factory responsible for manufacture of Taurus blood warmers. Taurus manufacturing capability was not restored and more than a quarter century has now passed since the last Taurus 301 was commissioned. Taurus devices may still be found in active service within some South African hospitals.(1) The author has also observed the scrapping of at least 3 units from the Groote Schuur Hospital Complex over the past 5 years and, if the situation parallels that of other hospitals, the Taurus may soon be lost to clinical practice.

Research questions

The mean effective power output of the Taurus 301, when used for the warming of small volume units of red cell concentrate, in the setting of massive transfusion, prior to this study, was unknown. The primary aim of this study was to describe the mean effective power output of the Taurus 301 in this context.

To realise this aim, four identical bags of simulated, small volume, red cell concentrate were prepared and cooled to 4 °C before being warmed sequentially using a Taurus 301 which remains in active service. For each warming instance calorimetry was used to determine effective power output of the device. The bags were thereafter again cooled to 4 °C and 24 such warming instances undertaken.

It was also unknown whether or not the increase in effective power output observed for bags warmed serially, in the Taurus 301, is significant. The secondary aim of this study was to determine the extent and significance of this increase. This secondary aim was achieved by means of subgroup analysis in which comparison was made between effective power output

observed for bags warmed as a function of sequence within a batch of serial warming instances.

Methods

For the purposes of evaluating the warming performance of an electromagnetic blood warming device, concentrations of saline may be used to simulate the electrical properties of specific blood products. The interaction between blood and electromagnetic radiation has been exhaustively studied and these data made available. Perusal of these data will reveal, among other properties, the conductivity of blood for a range of haematocrit values, temperatures and electromagnetic field frequencies. Using these data, and that of saline solutions, a saline-based blood product simulation is possible.

The experiment was conducted within a laboratory adjacent to the main theatre complex at 2 Military Hospital, a tertiary-level hospital in Cape Town, South Africa, where there remains a functional Taurus 301 blood warmer. This particular Taurus 301 is functional and used regularly for the warming of red cell concentrates.

Four simulated bags of red cell concentrate of small volume served as subjects for the experiment. These four bags underwent cycles of cooling and then warming, using the Taurus 301.

Results

The Taurus 301 mean effective power output, when considering all warming instances, was 172.04 W (n = 96; 95% CI 169.61 – 174.47). A mean effective power output of 153.11 W (n=24; 95% CI 151.37 – 154.85) and 181.61 W (n=24; 95% CI 179.95 – 183.26) was observed when warming the first bag and last bag in each batch respectively. Taurus maximum power output was thus seen to be observed during warming of the last bag in a batch.

When considering the difference in effective power output between bags warmed first and those warmed subsequently, a statistically significant increase in mean power of 25.25W (p <0.001; 95% CI 23.00 to 27.49) was observed.

Conclusion

This research has determined the mean maximum effective power output of Taurus 301, when used to warm the most vulnerable of blood product units, to be 181.61 W (n=24; 95% CI 179.95 – 183.26), and makes this value known in the interests of providing insight into what is likely a safe power output target for a prototype modernised Taurus.

1. BACKGROUND & SIGNIFICANCE

Devices designed specifically for the warming of banked blood, prior to transfusion, have been described as early as 1941.(2) Warming blood did not become commonplace until much later. As recently as the year 1965 the Western Province Blood Transfusion Service strictly prohibited the practice.(3) This was, however, a time in which there was much research underway in the field of heart transplantation, a procedure that often called for massive blood transfusions. Marked reductions in subject temperature following such massive transfusions of cold blood were observed and identified as an important factor in the development of cardiovascular complications.(4, 5)

At Groote Schuur Hospital, the lead anaesthesiologist in the cardiothoracic team, J. Ozinsky, who would later go on to provide anaesthesia for the first successful human heart transplantation, identified the need for a device capable of warming blood rapidly prior to transfusion.(6) Such a device was subsequently developed as a collaborative effort between the Department of Anaesthetics and Department of Electrical Engineering at the University of Cape Town.(7) The device became known as the “Taurus” blood warmer, namesake of the Head of Department at the time, and clinical leader of the project, Prof. A.B. Bull. Taurus employed the use of a valve triode, the predecessor of the transistor, configured as an oscillator, to generate radio frequency (RF) electromagnetic radiation capable of warming blood inductively within the glass bottles in which it was packaged at the time.(8, 9) A subsequent version of the Taurus, which warms blood within the bag in which it is packaged, remains in active clinical service at Groote Schuur Hospital.(1)

Prototype development

Bull sought assistance, from Prof. J.L.N. Besseling of the Department of Electrical Engineering, for the development of a blood warming capability for massive transfusions. The request for assistance was well received and Besseling presented the problem as a potential undergraduate electrical engineering research project. Prof. I.M. Mason of Oxford University, an undergraduate of the University of Cape Town at the time, took interest in project.(10)

The pre-prototype was developed over two months and demonstrated the ability to warm whole blood, within glass Baxter bottles, safely and aseptically, from 4 to 34 °C in approximately three minutes. Remarkably, the functional prototype (Taurus) rolled into the theatre complex at Groote Schuur just 10 weeks later.(10)

Red cell survival testing

In-vivo evaluation of red cell survivability was also undertaken with a pair of investigators serving themselves as volunteers. A single unit of blood was crossmatched against both participants and red cells Cr⁵¹ radio-labelled. One participant was transfused, from this radio-labelled crossmatched unit, a quantum of un-warmed blood, whilst the other participant received a quantum of blood warmed using the Taurus under evaluation. There

was no significant difference observed between the half-life of the warmed vs un-warmed cells. This experiment suggested that blood warming using the Taurus prototype, with oscillator set to operate at around 33 MHz, resulted in no significant decrease in survivability of transfused red blood cells. Despite its simplicity, this experiment paved the way for acceptance of the novel device into clinical practice.(7)

A commemorative wall near the entrance of Groote Schuur Hospital lists the development of the Taurus blood warmer among other “Hospital Firsts”: 1965 - The development of a rapid warming device for massive blood transfusions (Fig. 1).



Figure 1 - Prof. I.M. Mason at the commemorative wall near the entrance of Groote Schuur Hospital

Early versions of the device

Taurus Mk1

The first Taurus to carry a corresponding nameplate was the version Mk1. The Instrument Manufacturing Corporation in Cape Town was responsible for commercialisation. Whether or not the Taurus MK1 was used during the operation which saw Louis Washkansky receive a donor heart is unknown. The device was available for use by the cardiothoracic team at the time but the account of the anaesthetic published by Ozinsky made no mention of it specifically.(11)

Taurus Mk2

By 1970 the Plessy group had acquired Cape Town’s Instrument Manufacturing Corporation along with the Taurus Mk1. Plessy revised the design and dubbed it Mk2. A Taurus Mk2, manufactured by Plessy South African circa 1970, is part of The Nagin Parbhoo History of Anaesthesia Museum collection which is housed within Department of Anaesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine at Groote Schuur Hospital.(12) This model, on display (Fig. 2), demonstrates the 600mL, thick walled, glass, Baxter bottles that were used, at the time, to package whole blood for transfusion.(1)



Figure 2 - Taurus Mk2 on display in the Nagin Parbhoo History of Anaesthesia Museum

Taurus 300

Substantive mechanical redesign of the Mk2 was called for in the late 1970's when the Western Province Blood Transfusion Service began packaging blood in polyvinyl chloride (PVC) bags. Blood packaged in bags assumed a rectangular rather than cylindrical shape as was the case with blood in Baxter bottles. The coiled inductor, which formed part of the radio frequency circuit used to warm the blood, relied upon by the Mk1 and Mk2, would no longer be appropriate for the new, roughly rectangular shaped packaging. The Taurus 300 thus adopted a capacitive, rather than inductive, warming approach in which the rectangular "slab" of blood was sandwiched between two metal plates over which a radio frequency (RF) waveform was applied. The blood, in this configuration, behaves like a lossy dielectric substance of a capacitor. Heating results owing to the blood interacting with the alternating electric field within the capacitor and converting a portion of this to heat in a process known as dielectric loss.(13)

Taurus's electrical mechanism will be discussed in detail under a specific heading; however, the historical account of the Taurus 300 is not complete without noting that the design for the pre-prototype, centred around a valve triode configured as a Colpitts oscillator. This oscillator type calls for a tank element which consists of two capacitors and an inductor. The Mk1 and Mk2 were able to warm blood by placing it within the inductor, whilst the Taurus 300 was able to achieve the same by simply configuring the blood bag to fit between the electrodes of one of the tank circuit capacitors. Remarkably, despite dramatic changes to the shape and packaging of the blood presented to the device, the oscillator mechanism remained thus largely unchanged.(7, 14)

Taurus 301

Plessy South Africa would manufacture the Taurus 300 until circa 1989 when the parent company merged with the General Electric Company. A further merger with Siemens in the following year resulted in fragmentation of the Plessy group of companies. The designs for the Taurus were transferred to Cape Medical Engineering Incorporated (C.M.E.I.) and revised with the Taurus 301 as the result.(10)

Whilst the RF oscillator remained largely unchanged, the Taurus 301 (Fig. 3) sported newer, more reliable control circuitry that made use of integrated circuits rather than discrete electrical components.(15)

The author has acquired a Taurus 301 that was scrapped and has added this to the Nagin Parbhoo History of Anaesthesia Museum collection.



Figure 3 - A Taurus 301 in active service at Groote Schuur Hospital in 2022

Subsequent safety testing

The results of the initial safety testing for electromagnetic radio frequency warming of blood in a Taurus prototype, and an early Taurus design, were published in 1965 and 1967 respectively.(7, 8) By 1990 many things had changed about the design of the device as well as the packaging and processing of blood that it was designed to warm.

From a hardware perspective, most notably, the device's RF oscillation frequency had been shifted from 33 MHz to 27.12 MHz. This was in order to be compliant with the Industrial Scientific Medical (ISM) frequency band requirements.(16) This lower frequency had greater potential to polarize red blood cell membranes and result in lesion of warming, influencing their longevity. The shape of the warming cavity and the mechanism of electromagnetic field formation had also changed significantly.(10)

From a blood product perspective, transfusion practices had also changed. No longer was whole blood the product of choice for massive transfusion. The use of red cell concentrate had, by 1960, become common practice. Red cell concentrate has a greater haematocrit (HCT), smaller volume and different preservatives relative to whole blood.(17) Taurus would need to be evaluated anew in order to demonstrate safety when warming this new blood product.

The safety tests were repeated using the latest Taurus, a model 301, and published in 1992. In vitro, the investigators found a small increase in free plasma haemoglobin following warming. This was however without any accompanying increase in potassium, lactate dehydrogenase or red cell membrane fragility.(14) Lack of congruence observed in these aforementioned markers of haemolysis make conclusion about whether or not the device induced haemolysis difficult.(18) Further, it must be noted that, in this experiment, the mean temperature achieved following warming of whole blood and red cell concentrate was 31.5 °C and 30.5 °C respectively.(14) These temperatures are lower than those observed in other studies.(2, 19-22) These low end point temperatures suggest that the safety tests may not have exposed the blood products under investigation to the same amount of radio frequency energy was the case in other studies. The extent of haemolysis observed may thus underestimate that which would occur if end point temperatures were higher.

In vivo red cell survivability tests, where autologous banked blood was stored for 33 days and then infused as red cell concentrate, were also performed. Each volunteer acted as their own control and pre-transfusion warming of blood in a Taurus 301 was shown to have no deleterious influence on in vivo red cell survivability at 24 hours and 21 days when compared to un-warmed blood. It was concluded that the Taurus 301 could be recommended as safe for the warming of both whole blood and red cell concentrates.(14)

Taurus in modern times

Despite access to a multitude of other blood technologies the author has observed, at Groote Schuur Hospital, a busy, tertiary-level, academic hospital, that the majority of anaesthetists opt to use the Taurus 301 for the warming of blood in most instances. Despite a design rooted in the 1970's the author believes there are characteristics innate to the Taurus 301 that make the device extremely well suited to modern practice in the developing world, and perhaps modern practice in general:

From an environmental perspective, the Taurus is distinctly different from other technologies in that it requires no physical consumables.(15) This lack of consumables negates the need for transport, storage and packaging of consumables, the consumables themselves and disposal of biohazardous consumables following a warming instance. The machine itself is also made largely from recyclable metal parts. A life-cycle analysis of the technology would likely reveal a markedly greener approach to blood warming than a consumables dependent approach.

From a logistical support perspective, the Taurus, once placed and plugged in, requires little beyond calibration and maintenance of the mechanical parts.(15) The majority of devices in operation appear to have done so without any attention to maintenance for the past decade.

From a simplicity perspective, the Taurus may be operated simply reading the instructions printed on the door of the device. Without any significant training any member of a clinical team would be able to safely operate the device. This simplicity stands in stark contrast to many other devices which use consumables that need to be connected to a patient's intravenous (IV) giving set. (23-25)

From a cost perspective the Taurus is appealing in that the variable overheads incurred in operating the machine are limited to the electricity it consumes. Costs associated with special training, procurement and disposal of consumables do not apply to the Taurus. Further, a single Taurus machine, placed strategically within a theatre complex, can serve many theatres simultaneously. This is not possible for in-line type warmers which must stand alongside an individual patient.(26-30)

From clinical utility perspective, the transition from the routine use of whole blood to packed red cells highlighted, for many clinicians, the importance of the relationship between blood viscosity and temperature. This as high-viscosity cold blood requires more pressure to achieve a given rate of flow through the standard blood-giving IV filter, than does warmer, low-viscosity blood. (2, 31) Warm blood may be given faster, and with a lower incidence of haemolysis, than cold blood in the same setting.(31) In-line blood warmers typically warm blood only after the filter has been traversed.

From a practicality perspective, the author suggests that, in some instances, in a large, busy, theatre complex a heavy, easily identifiable, and relatively immovable device may be preferable. Such a device, often called upon in the emergency setting, is less likely to be stolen, knocked over, misplaced or difficult to find when needed. Similar cannot be said for smaller devices with wheels and trailing power cords.(2)

Inappropriate use of Taurus for the warming of “Packed Red Cells”

Set into the fiberglass door of the Taurus 301 is a notice which reads: “DO NOT USE FOR PACKED RED CELLS” (Fig. 4). The author has observed clinicians opting to administer blood without warming on account of this notice. Other clinicians will likely have felt uncomfortable using the device or would have opted to use alternative blood warming technologies.

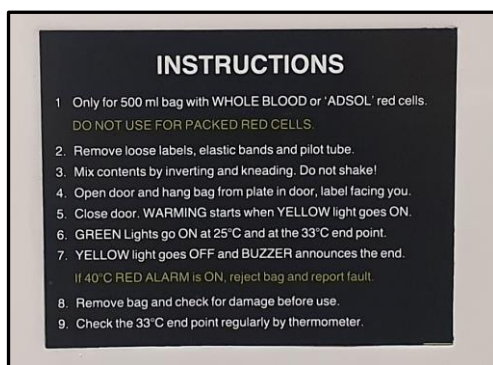


Figure 4 - Notice on the door of Taurus 301 which reads: “DO NOT USE FOR PACKED RED CELLS”

Harrison concluded that the new Taurus 301 was safe for warming blood other than whole blood of volume 500mL as was the case for the preceding model, the Taurus 300.(14) Assumption by many users of the Taurus 301 has been that the manufacturer did not accept the conclusion arrived at by Harrison following his evaluation, and simply wished to pass on the risk, no matter how small, to the clinicians who would continue using the device “off label”.

This literature review has revealed, however, that the notice on the door of Taurus is leading clinicians to incorrect conclusions about which products are suitable for warming in the device. “Packed red cells”, in blood bank parlance, refer to a specific type of red cell preparation that is not commonly issued for transfusion, but is rather an intermediate in the blood banking process. Following centrifuge, and removal of both plasma and buffy coat, the product which results is referred to as “packed red cells”. This product typically has an HCT in excess of 0.8 and thus demonstrates much greater viscosity than would be expected for other blood products. Following addition of preservative, additional anticoagulant and a volume of plasma, the resultant preparation has an HCT of approximately 0.6 and a volume of 250-350 mL – this product is called “red cell concentrate”, or alternatively, “haemoconcentrate”. “ADSOL®”, a registered trademark, describes a specific preservative additive that is used in the preparation of red cell concentrates as described above.(14)

In more modern general medical- and anaesthetic literature, the term “*packed red cells*” has come to refer to a product which is technically red cell concentrate. The Taurus 301, we can thus infer, is therefore being used appropriately when used to warm “*packed red cells*”.

Literature review also reveals a trend in which localised “hot-spot” formation, due to high viscosity and resultant poor mixing, is likely the main contributing factor resulting in haemolysis of blood warmed using electromagnetic means.(19, 21, 22, 32, 33) It is thus likely that the very high HCT typical of packed red cells was justification enough for specifically prohibiting the warming of packed red cells in the Taurus 301.(15)

The future for Taurus 301

More than a quarter century has passed since the last Taurus 301 was commissioned, yet the devices may still be found in active service within some South African hospitals. The author is aware of 2 such units which remain functional within the Groote Schuur Hospital Complex, and an additional 2 in other Cape Town based hospitals. How broadly and in what numbers the Taurus 301 was deployed by C.M.E.I. / Plessey is unknown. The author has also observed the scrapping of at least 3 units from the Groote Schuur Hospital Complex over the past 5 years and, if the situation parallels that of other hospitals, the Taurus may soon be lost to clinical practice.

Taurus RF generation mechanism

Both ultrasonic and microwave warming mechanisms were considered potentially useful in the Taurus pre-prototype. These were, however, rejected in favour of RF on account of cost and poor penetration into blood respectively.(7)

Frequency selection

An oscillator frequency, in the RF range, of 33 MHz was chosen for two important reasons. First, data available revealed that between 25 MHz and 100 MHz the electrical interaction between red cells and alternating electric fields was at minimum, and thus also the likelihood of specific red cell biological adverse effects.(7) Second, the blood for warming was packaged in glass bottles of radius 4.2cm and an electric field of frequency of 33 MHz would demonstrate a skin effect greater than this radius with resultant uniform field strength all the way through the body of blood.(14) Fortuitously the need to comply with international regulations and operate within the allocated industrial, scientific and medical (ISM) frequency band (26,957 MHz to 27,283 MHz) did not require that the device operating frequency be moved outside of the above specified frequency range.(16)

Colpitts oscillator

The operating frequency of a Colpitts oscillator is set by three components, two capacitors and an inductor. These three components, known as a tank circuit, have a particular resonant frequency. When the tank circuit is paired with a gain device, a valve triode in the case Taurus, in an arrangement as shown in figure 5, a positive feedback relationship is established where RF power is circulated in the system at approximately the resonant frequency of the tank circuit.(14)

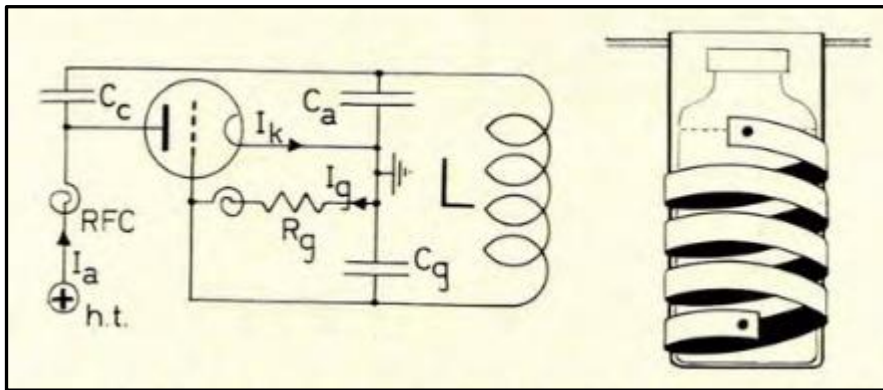


Figure 5 - Schematic diagram of the Colpitts oscillator circuit as implemented in the Taurus Mk1; The blood bottle is illustrated as being situated within the core of the inductor labelled "L"

All versions of the Taurus have warmed blood by placing blood *within* one of these tank circuit elements. In the prototypes, MK1 and MK2 the blood and bottle were housed within the inductor, and for models 300 and 301 the blood was sandwiched between two plates, as illustrated in figure 6, which formed one of the tank circuit capacitors.(15) It is Important to note that blood, itself a biological and highly variable substance, was part of the circuit that attempted to set the operating frequency of the oscillator circuit to within the ISM frequency band.

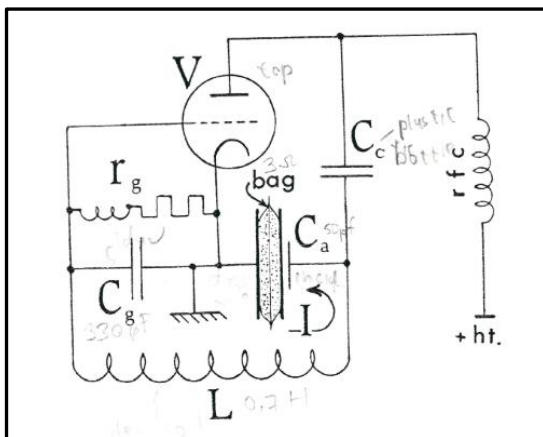


Figure 6 - Schematic diagram of the Colpitts oscillator circuit as implemented in the Taurus 300 and 301; The blood bag may be observed as fulfilling the role as a dielectric substance between two parallel plates of the capacitor labelled "Ca"

Conditions favouring maximum power delivery

In RF systems, maximum power delivery is achieved when there is appropriate matching of the source and load impedance.(34) This means that when a load has an impedance either lower, or higher, than that of the source, there will be a resultant wave of reflected power. This wave of reflected power travels back towards the source and will influence components along the way. Depending on the RF generator design, some reflected power may be radiated as electromagnetic energy, some may be converted to heat within components or transmission line elements, and some may prevent further energy from being added to the system by the source. Ultimately some of the reflected power never reaches the blood and this is thus observed as decreased effective power delivery.

In Taurus, impedance mismatch has contributed to the device safety. When a small volume unit of blood is inserted into the device it experiences this as a decrease in load impedance relative to a full volume unit, and subsequently delivers less power into this unit as a result of impedance mismatch resulting in reflected power.

Colour temperature change may be observed in the glow that radiates through the holes in the Faraday cage on the posterior of the Taurus. This change follows fluctuation in the temperature of filament within the valve triode as a result of changing source-load impedance matching, and consequently the amount of reflected power which must be dissipated as heat.

Blood impedance decreases as a function of temperature.(35) So marked is this effect that it was used as the switch-off signal for in the Taurus MK1 and MK2, as opposed to measured temperature, where decrease in blood impedance with warming would create sufficient mismatch to signal that sufficient heating has occurred.(8)

Further, the author has observed that the movable plate within the body of the Taurus, which makes direct contact with the PVC blood bag, warms up considerably during operation of the device. The first bag in a batch would lose heat energy via conduction to the cool plate whilst subsequent bags would suffer heat energy losses of smaller magnitude. Put another way, blood bags warmed subsequent to the first may benefit from a quantum of heat energy added by conduction in addition to RF heating.

Modern solid-state switching technology

The pre-prototype Taurus was conceived at a time when the silicone transistor was less than 10 years old.(9, 36) The valve triode, a delicate, evacuated, glass envelope housing three electrodes, was instead used in an oscillator to generate the RF that would be used to warm blood. A valve triode, as shown in figure 7, has powered every model of Taurus since. The Taurus 301, last revised circa 1990 employed the use of some silicone semiconductor technology but only for control circuitry and not in the RF generator.(15)



Figure 7 - A Philips valve triode model TB 3/750 in circuit within a Taurus 301

Much has changed in semiconductor industry since even the most recent Taurus design. In the time since, entirely new semiconductor technologies have arisen and, simultaneous to this, the valve triode has become obsolete. A newer switching technology in the form of gallium-nitride (GaN) FET (field-effect transistor), largely driven by the 5G cellular industry, is available and capable of handling an order of magnitude more power than both previous generation switching technologies (Fig. 8) as well as the valve triodes implemented in Taurus.(37, 38) GaN semiconductor switching technologies could be implemented in an RF generator suitable for blood warming.

A modern approach to generation of RF will likely be considerably different to that which was implemented in Taurus:

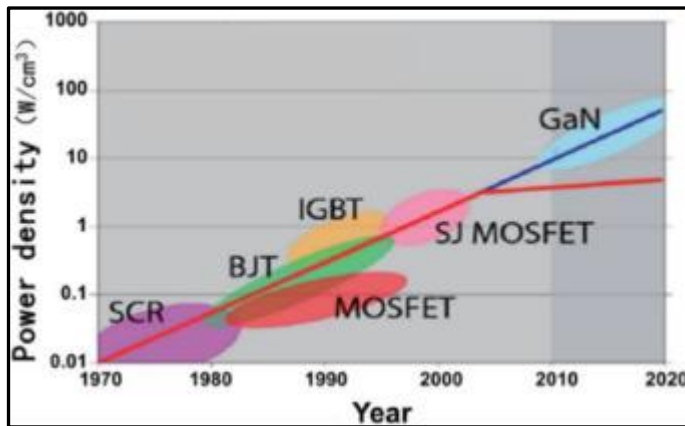


Figure 8 - Graphic illustrating the relationship between types of switching technologies, associated power density and the year of development; Silicon controlled rectifier (SCR), bipolar junction transistor (BJT), insulated gate bipolar transistors (IGBTs), metal oxide semiconductor field effect transistors (MOSFETs), super-junction (SJ) MOSFETs and Gallium nitride (GaN))(38)

Energy efficiency

Energy efficiency is important in terms of environmental impact, but in the context of solid-state switching technologies, inefficiency results in heat which must be removed to prevent damage to electrical components. The valve triode implemented in Taurus is large, robust and can glow red-hot (Fig. 9) without sustaining damage. The same cannot be said for silicone-based switching technologies which must be actively cooled to drive their loads without suffering the ill effects of reflected power.



Figure 9 - Taurus 301 valve triode glowing during device operation

The factors that influence the impedance of blood include its volume, temperature, HCT, ion concentration, packaging and orientation within the warming fixture.(10) As a result, an RF energy source using a more modern, mismatch-tolerant class of RF generator will likely be sought. Such RF energy sources will not have the innate ability to decrease power output for small, low impedance units of blood as is the case with the valve triode in a Colpitts oscillator configuration.

Compliance with regulation

If a modern RF device is to be compliant in terms of electromagnetic radiation regulations, it will either need to be heavily shielded or operate strictly in the narrow ISM band.(16) A Colpitts oscillator, implemented as has been done in Taurus blood warmers, may not be suitable for such a task, given the variability of the blood that forms an integral part of its tuning mechanism.(7, 14)

Justification for proposed research

Whilst not the norm, red cell concentrates may be processed and dispatched with an HCT as high as 0.7 and volume as low as 210 mL.(39) Such units are at elevated risk of poor mixing, localised hot-spot formation and disproportionate lesion of warming.(20) Power output limitation may be particularly important when warming such products.

Relative to the TB 3/750 valve triode around which Taurus is built, modern GaN and LDMOS semiconductors have made the delivery of comparably massive amounts of RF power possible.(15, 37) With great power comes great responsibility and, should the designers of a modernised Taurus seek to use these solid-state switching technologies, whilst striving to match the Taurus 301 safety record, they would do well to limit their device power output to levels typical of the Taurus 301.(40)

The Taurus 301 performance has been evaluated extensively and the device used for over 30 years. Without any literature available to suggest that the device is overtly harmful it may be concluded that the device design is one that may be drawn upon with confidence. Whilst limited effective power output alone is not the panacea allowing for safe RF warming; agitation mechanisms, temperature metrology and fail-safes should not be discounted; it is an important contributor. Without knowledge of what this effective power output is, those who seek to modernise the Taurus 301 may risk selecting a value that represents either over, or under powering. Specifying a design that delivers too much power may not be identified as harmful in subsequent safety testing which may result in irreparable harm to the reputation of an entire technology as has been the case with microwave blood warming.(22, 32) Design specification which is overly conservative, on the other hand, may result in a device of restricted clinical utility.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Scope of literature for review

A review of literature relating to all blood warming technologies is beyond the scope of this article. This literature review will instead focus on devices which make use of electromagnetic radiation for the purposes of warming blood. A wide range of electromagnetic radiation frequencies have been used for this purpose and associated technologies will be considered in order of increasing wavelength: Microwave, infrared (IR) and radio-frequency (RF). Other themes identified during review of the literature will follow.

Search strategy

A search of the electronic database, PubMed, was performed for articles published in English using the following search queries for microwave, infrared and radio frequency blood warming technologies respectively:

((blood[Title]) AND (warm*[Title] OR heat*[Title])) AND (microwave[Title/Abstract]), ((blood[Title]) AND (warm*[Title] OR heat*[Title])) AND (infrared[Title/Abstract] OR infrared[Title/Abstract]) and ((blood[Title]) AND (warm*[Title] OR heat*[Title])) AND (radio-frequency[Title/Abstract] OR radio-wave[Title/Abstract] OR high-frequency[Title/Abstract] OR RF[Title/Abstract]). These queries yielded 27, 25 and 24 results.

Of the 27 articles related to microwave radiation blood warmers, 12 noted to be irrelevant based on review of the tile. The remaining 15 articles were accessed for review.

Of the 25 articles related to infrared radiation blood warmers, 24 noted to be irrelevant based on review of the tile. The remaining 1 article was accessed for review.

Of the 24 articles related to radio-frequency radiation blood warmers, 19 noted to be irrelevant based on review of the tile. The remaining 5 articles were accessed for review.

Additionally, a PubMed query looking for articles relating to electromagnetic blood warmers known to the author was used: Taurus, Ohio-987, Transfusio-Therm, Infusotherm 407 and Fluido.

Literature found as a result of ad hoc online search, using Google and Google Scholar, will also be included.

Microwave warming

Early history

The development of the cavity magnetron in 1940 allowed for a reduction in the size of World War II era practical radar systems by orders of magnitude. During wartime the Allies put this technology to use and enjoyed radar superiority that Axis counterparts would never match. Serendipitous was the finding by Percy Spencer, whilst servicing one such active

radar set, that his leg became warm when positioned alongside the device. Such was the heating that the “Mr. Goodbar” chocolate bar in his pocket had liquified. This event, the first documented microwave warming of foodstuffs, was a key moment in the history of the microwave oven, a device which would make the magnetron near globally ubiquitous.(41-43) It is likely that the success of the microwave oven resulted in interest in the use of the same technology for the blood warming.

Historical microwave blood warmers

Swiss microwave blood warmer

The development of the first microwave device developed specifically for blood warming took place in Switzerland and was described in 1964. The device warmed blood within glass bottles and did so with “no significant changes”. No laboratory evaluation data of the device performance is available.(2, 44)

Ohio Model 987 microwave blood warmer

In 1967, taking inspiration from the Swiss microwave blood warmer, a United States team described their own prototype: A magnetron oscillator tuned for 2450 MHz and capable of 1000 watts of power output was selected for the device. Microwave energy was directed into the cavity of the device in which there was a rotating, plastic, cylindrical receptacle into which the user would place the blood to be warmed.(2)

The team described, in both articles related to the prototype, that their microwave device had a tendency towards non-uniform heating of blood. Localised “hot spots” would form and these were blamed for the significant increase in free plasma haemoglobin observed following warming.(2, 45) Despite this concern the resultant Ohio Model 987 (Fig. 10) would be fitted with an even more powerful, 1100 watt magnetron. Aluminium shielding would be added to strategic locations to protect the tapered edges of the bags, the waveguide modified so as to direct microwave energy towards the central part of the blood bag being warmed, and the speed of rotation of the plastic receptacle increased in an attempt to mitigate the “hot spot” problem.(45)

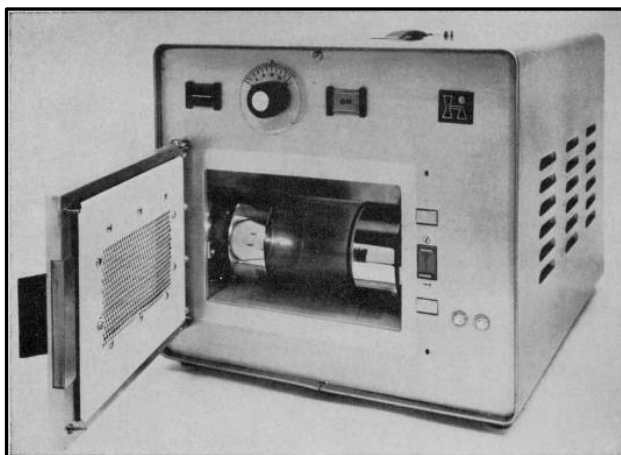


Figure 10 - Ohio Model 987 Blood Warmer

The first case of extensive haemolysis caused by the Ohio Model 987 took place in 1971.(32) Over the course of two years at least 8 clinical case reports of haemolysis of blood for

transfusion were reported.(32, 33, 46) Whilst some of these complications could all be attributed to either failure of the proper mechanical mixing function of the device, or use of the machine in a manner contrary to the manufacturer instructions,(32, 33) in at least three cases extensive haemolysis of the blood being warmed resulted despite adherence to the manufacturer's prescribed process.(46)

In the wake of these case reports the lesion to blood caused by the Ohio Model 987 (and also the Taurus 300) during warming was carefully evaluated and compared that of warming using the, more traditional, temperature-controlled water bath. Following observation that 35% of blood warmed using the Ohio device was grossly haemolysed, the authors concluded that the use of microwaves for the warming of blood intended for transfusion in man should be questioned.(22)

Infusotherm 407

Researchers who evaluated the Infusiotherm 407 describe a microwave blood warmer with "a swivelling mechanism of the rotating holder which allows continuous mixing and uniform warming of the red-cell suspension."(47)

Published results of device performance from 1985 were favourable with increases in free haemoglobin and lactate of 8% and 7% above those for un-warmed blood respectively.(48)

Comparison was also made between warming lesion with the Isotherm 407 and in-line warming by passing blood through coiled tubing immersed in a temperature-controlled water bath. No significant difference in lesion of warming was observed between the two methods tested.(47)

Haemotherm microwave blood warmer

The Haemotherm, manufactured in West Germany, was available in two configurations: The Haemotherm Universal, which could warm blood in both bags and bottles, and the Haemotherm B, which was intended for warming blood in bags only. The Haemotherm used magnetrons oscillators of the same frequency as was seen in the Ohio Model 987, but implemented these quite differently – The device had an output power of just 400 watts, made use of two magnetrons, and rotated the blood bag back and forth through 350° rather than through complete rotations in one direction.(21)

Investigators commented specifically on the device mixing mechanism and associated this with lesion of warming of smaller magnitude that had been seen with the Ohio Model 987. There was, however, significant haemolysis observed with units of whole blood warmed using the Haemotherm B despite end temperatures between 36.0°C and 36.8°C. This finding was highly suggestive of localised overheating by the device. It was also found that marked haemolysis occurred when the blood being warmed had haematocrit exceeding 0.7 or mass less than 300g.(21)

Significant was the conclusion that neither exposure to microwave radiation, nor final temperature of the blood per se, but rather local overheating due to poor mixing of blood during warming and poor penetration of microwaves into the blood were the critical factors leading to haemolysis.(21)

Contemporary microwave blood warmers

Transfusio-therm 2000

The only commercially available microwave warmer suitable for blood, revealed by this literature review, is the Transfusio-therm 2000/3000 (Fig. 11). The device is capable of warming both fresh frozen plasma, whole blood and red cell concentrates. Further, the manufacturers claim compatibility with blood product volumes 100-600 mL. Warming is achieved by means of a 950 watt microwave magnetron, and three bags may be warmed simultaneously.(49)



Figure 11 - Transfusio-therm 2000 microwave blood warmer

Literature search reveals only one article which evaluated the device effect on erythrocyte preparations. Reassuringly, the red cells concentrates warmed using the Transfusio-therm 2000 tested favourably with no markers suggesting increase in haemolysis when compared to the same warmed comparably using a water bath.(50)

An evaluation of the Transfusio-therm 2000 for the warming of fresh frozen plasma was, however, undertaken in 2003. No local overheating was reported although the authors noted that the lower of the three trays resulted in more rapid heating than was seen in the other two trays. The authors recommended that the shape and size of the blood products should be standardized and that fresh frozen plasma units should be frozen in a regular rectangular receptacle such that the frozen product would have flat surfaces and no narrowing at the edges as is seen with bags.(19)

At the time the device was manufactured by Zeipel Medical GmbH, Heilbad Heiligenstadt, Germany. The device is now owned by EICMED GmbH, Heilbad Heiligenstadt, Germany and it is unclear whether the device has undergone any changes since 2003.(49, 51)

Problems associated with microwave blood warming

The underlying theme which emerges for microwave warming is that of poor penetration of electromagnetic energy into blood with resultant localised hot-spot formation and subsequently damage. Microwave energy, typically generated by a magnetron at 2450 MHz, has been shown to penetrate less than 8mm into biological tissue.(52) Adequate mixing of the blood during microwave warming appears to be both especially critical in prevention of

hot-spot formation, and simultaneously a vulnerability responsible for many of the past failures of the technology.(22, 32, 33, 50)

Infrared warming

The PubMed search terms described reveal one experimental IR warmer which is potentially suitable for warming of blood in the context of massive transfusion. This device employs the use of IR light-emitting diodes (LEDs) to warm the bag both pre-infusion and in-line during infusion. Using this technique, the authors claim to be able to deliver fluid at 38.5 °C at flow rates in the range 100-1500 mL/min. Whilst the fluid is delivered to the patient at physiological temperatures, the time taken to warm the bag pre-infusion (0.7 °C/min) limits clinical utility in the massive transfusion context.(53)

Ad hoc online searching reveals also the Fluido AirGaurd System (The Surgical Company, Amersfoort, The Netherlands), a commercially available device that uses IR to heat blood, or other IV fluids, to physiological temperatures at flow rates up to 750 mL/min. The IR warming takes place within a disposable, single use, proprietary giving set.(28) No publications evaluating the Fluido AirGuard System could be found.

More generally, as for microwave warming, the use of IR for warming of blood pre-transfusion, would need careful consideration regarding its power and depth of penetration into the blood bag. IR radiation is characterised by wavelengths 780 nm - 1000 um and frequencies of 300 GHz to 215 THz.(54, 55) Given that the most important parameter which determines the penetration of electromagnetic radiation into tissue, is its wavelength, absorption of IR energy within millimetres is not unexpected.(56)

Radio frequency warming

This literature search reveals that the Taurus range of blood warmers represent the only examples of a radio-frequency blood warmers that were made available commercially for clinical use. Four important studies have evaluated the performance of Taurus, the most recent of which was published in 1992.(7, 8, 14, 20). Taurus was also mentioned in two articles, published 1974 and 1991 respectively, which reviewed blood warming techniques prevalent at the time.(23, 24)

3. RESEARCH QUESTION, AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Research Question

The effective power output of the Taurus 301, when used for the warming of small volume bags of red cell concentrate, was unknown, and was described by collecting data around a number of instances of warming simulated small volume bags of red cell concentrate.

The Taurus 301 is also known to exhibit increased effective power output when used to warm bags of blood products in rapid succession(14). It was believed that this effective power increase is significant. The factors which likely contribute to this increase in power delivery have been discussed above. Our main hypothesis was that there would be a significant increase in the mean effective power output of the device for simulated small volume bags of red cell concentrate warmed serially.

Primary Aim

The mean effective power output of the Taurus 301, when used for the warming of small volume bags of red cell concentrate, in the setting of massive transfusion, prior to this study, was unknown. This study set out to describe the mean effective power output of the Taurus 301 in this context.

Secondary Aim

It was unknown whether or not the increase in effective power output observed, for bags warmed serially was significant.

This study set out to determine the extent and significance of the effective power output increase that has been observed in this context.

Objectives of the Study

Objectives included (i) sourcing appropriate bags for simulation of blood products, (ii) design of the simulated blood product, (iii) preparation of the simulated blood products, (iv) warming of simulated blood products and (v) data collection, (vi) capture and (vii) analysis.

Each of the above points is expanded upon in the methodology discussion below.

4. METHODOLOGY

Study Design

This is an observational analytic study in that four bags of simulated, small volume red cell concentrate were warmed serially in batches using a Taurus 301, and measurements made. The resultant data were used for the realisation of both the study primary and secondary aims.

Setting & Subjects

The experiment was conducted within the main theatre complex at 2 Military Hospital, a tertiary-level hospital in Cape Town, South Africa, where there remains a functional Taurus 301 blood warmer. This particular Taurus 301 is functional and used regularly for the warming of bags red cell concentrate as supplied by the Western Cape Blood Service (WCBS), the regional blood bank. Following setup and workflow testing, the data collection was completed over the course of 15 days.

Four simulated bags of red cell concentrate of small volume served as subjects for the experiment. These four bags underwent cycles of cooling and then warming, using the Taurus 301.

Design and manufacture of simulated blood bags

Sourcing of blood bag

Blood bag material, nominal volume, presence of ports, labels and tubes all influence the electrical properties of the final product. High fidelity simulation of red cell concentrate bags, as delivered by the blood bank, required that the same bags were used for simulation. The WCBS agreed to support this research by making the necessary bags available following Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) approval (UCT HREC 156/2023).

Design of the simulated blood products

For the purposes of characterising warming using the Taurus 301, a simulated blood product must have certain characteristics that closely match those of the target blood product being simulated. Such characteristics include the design of packaging, volume of fluid and electrical conductivity of the fluid.

Simulation of packaging was not necessary owing to the same packaging being made available by the WCBS.

A laboratory scale (Model No. PE 360, Mettler Toledo) (Fig. 12) was used to measure the tare weight of the PVC bags and to allow for the addition of the correct mass of saline solution required to simulate the smallest volume (210 mL) specified by the WCBS for red cell

concentrate products.(39) Whilst 210 g of saline was added to each empty PVC bag, the volume of saline added to each bag was considered to be 210 mL given the negligible difference in density, at 20 °C, between pure water and the saline being used for simulation of red cell concentrate (998.22 g/L and 1001.9 g/L respectively).(57)

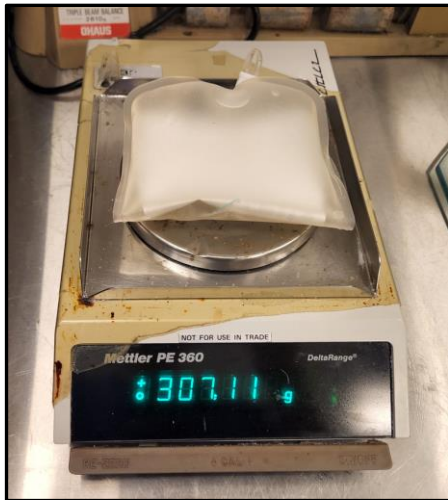


Figure 12 - Mettler Toledo laboratory scale used to measure the tare weight of the blood bags and that of saline added

The interaction between blood and electromagnetic radiation has been exhaustively studied and the data made available. Perusal of these data revealed, among other properties, the conductivity of blood for a range of haematocrit values, temperatures and electromagnetic field frequencies. At 27 MHz, the operating frequency of the RF oscillator within the Taurus 301, and at a temperature of 295 K, blood conductivity is 8.270 mS/cm and 8.839 mS/cm for haematocrit values of 57% and 39% respectively.(35)

The small difference in conductivity observed, despite a large variation in haematocrit, is by design. The operating frequency of Taurus was chosen to be well above the so-called Maxwell-Wagner beta relaxation frequency range, this the frequency range in which conductivity appears to be haematocrit dependant. Above this frequency the red cell membranes themselves do not appear to interact meaningfully with the electric fields and do not thus become polarised in response to the alternating electric field applied to them.(10)

The National Institute of Science and Technology (NIST) describes that pure deionised water is non-conductive. When there are ions present in water, however, the solution demonstrates electrolytic conductivity directly proportional to concentrations of these ions. The electrolytic conductivity is a result of ionic movement, and all ions contribute to the electrolytic conductivity of the solution. The conductivity of the solution is directly proportional to the ion concentration such that 0.9% NaCl in water has a conductivity of 14.5 mS/cm at 20 °C.(58) Using the above data, fluid of electrical conductivity resembling red cell concentrate, at 27 MHz, was prepared by adding NaCl to achieve a concentration of 0.51% (5.1 g/L).

Adding credibility to the simulation blood bag design, is the close correlation between the calculated NaCl concentration for simulation, and that which is described, by the manufacturer, in the Taurus 301 User Manual, for device testing (0.5%).(15) Further, in the

original article describing the Taurus, prototype, testing using 0.5% saline resulted in warming times closely correlating with that of whole blood.(14)

Manufacture of the simulated blood products

Bags provided by the WCBS contained anticoagulant and preservative solutions. These bags were washed out thoroughly using the same saline solution that was used for the simulated blood product. A port on each bag was then modified (Fig. 13A) to allow the insertion of a thermocouple probe into the geometric centre (Fig. 13B) of the bag. This is the location where temperature measurements were taken before and after each warming instance.

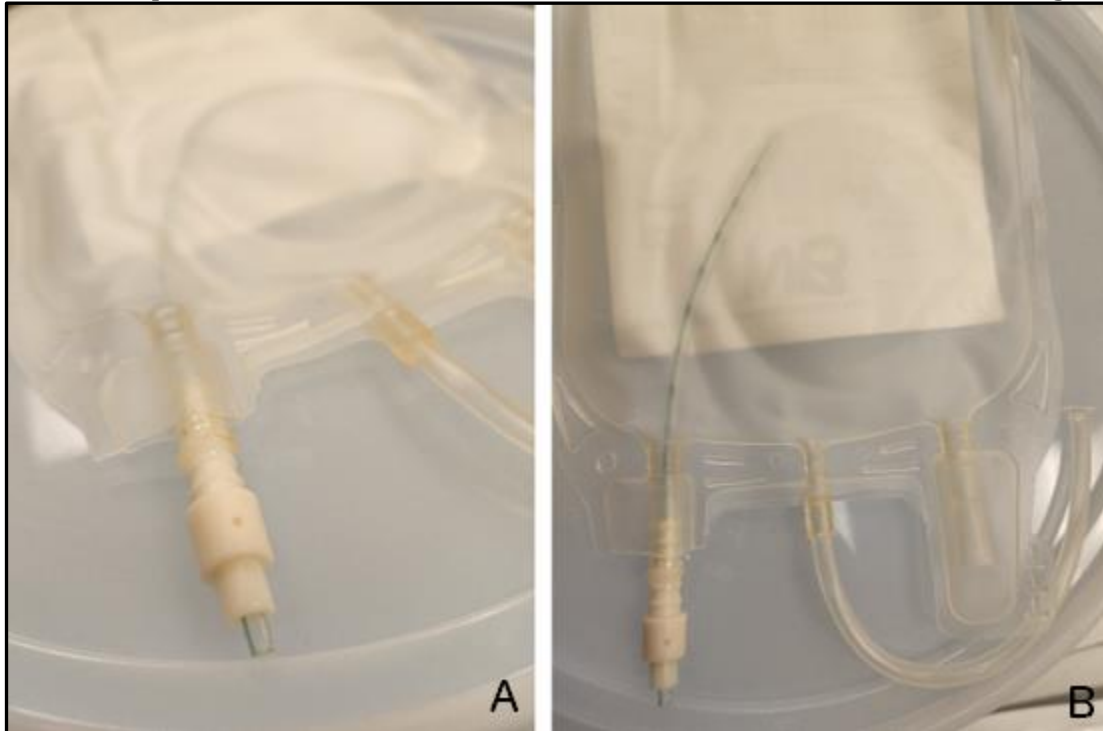


Figure 13 - Modification to the port on the PVC bag which creates a channel into which a thermocouple probe was inserted for the temperature at the geometric centre of the bag to be measured

For each of the four simulated small volume red cell concentrate bags, 210 g of 0.51% NaCl solution was added to complete the simulated blood product bag.

Data Collection & Measurements

The experiment, measurements and data collection were performed by the author.

Quantitative and qualitative data for each instance of warming were recorded on a data collection form (Appendix A). Data collected included:

- Date and time
- Ambient temperature
- Temperature measurements for both the bag and Taurus circular take-up plate made prior to warming
- Temperature measurements for both the bag and Taurus circular take-up plate made following warming

- Duration of the complete warming cycle as indicated by sounding of the Taurus buzzer
- Notes relating to any other observations made, deviations from defined workflow or abnormal occurrences that occurred during the particular warming instance

Measurement method

For a batch of fluid warming instances, the following process was followed:

- A new data collection form was prepared. (Appendix A)
- Bag removed from fridge and placed on towel
- Thermocouple probe inserted into the modified outlet port of bag and temperature measured 10 seconds after insertion of the probe considered
 - If temperature of bag was $> 5^{\circ}\text{C}$, bag was returned to fridge and further time allowed for cooling to take place
 - If temperature of bag was $\leq 5^{\circ}\text{C}$, temperature was noted and experiment was to proceed
- Thermocouple probe used to measure Taurus 301 circular take-up plate temperature
 - If temperature of the Taurus circular take-up plate was $< 25^{\circ}\text{C}$ then the experiment was allowed to proceed
 - If temperature of the Taurus circular take-up plate was $\geq 25^{\circ}\text{C}$ then the bag was returned to fridge in order to allow more time for the Taurus to cool
- Bag under test was then loaded into the Taurus 301
- Stopwatch started and the warming cycle in Taurus 301 started
- Note made to indicate whether the current warming instance was the first, second or third warming instance in the batch
- Stopwatch stopped when the alarm buzzer indicating that the Taurus 301 warming cycle is complete sounded
- The duration of the warming instance noted
- Bag under test then removed from the Taurus 301 and place on towel
- Thermocouple probe then used to measure Taurus 301 plate temperature
- Thermocouple probe then inserted into the modified outlet port of the bag
- Maximum temperature measured in the 10 seconds after insertion of the probe noted
- Any noteworthy events, observations or deviations from the methods described above were then recorded on the data collection form
- Bag temperature measurements were made using a UNI-T thermometer (Model No. UT320D, UNI-Trend) connected to a UNI-T K-type thermocouple probe (Model No. UT-T12, UNI-Trend), inserted into the modified outlet port in order to make measure the temperature of the fluid within the bag
- Taurus plate temperature measurements were made using a UNI-T thermometer (Model No. UT320D, UNI-Trend) connected to a UNI-T surface contact K-type thermocouple probe (Model No. UT-T06, UNI-Trend)

The data collected during an entire batch of warming instances were to be rejected should the collection process be disturbed for any reason including:

- Clinical need for the Taurus device arises
- Clinical need for the researcher arises
- Electrical supply failure

- Failure of the Taurus device

Data Management

Data capture forms were printed, and a form completed for each batch of warming instances. Once completed, forms were collected and collated. The information was captured into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet for statistical analysis later. Regular backups of the spreadsheet were saved onto a secure cloud storage system and a USB data storage device. The data collected are available in Appendix C.

Pilot data

During initial experiments, data were collected using a Taurus 301 device that has been scrapped and subsequently returned to working order. PVC bags resembling blood bags (Fig. 14) were purchased from a party supplies shop and used during these initial experiments.



Figure 14 - PVC bags resembling blood bags used during path-finding experiments

In the first pilot experiment series a bag of 0.5% saline 330mL was warmed, and then cooled a total of 25 times. The resultant data suggests that the effective power output follows, as determined by Jarque-Bera and Shapiro-Wilk tests, a normal distribution. Mean effective power output was 204.32 W (95% CI 195.31 – 213.33; SD 4.51). We were thus able to expect normally distributed data when a single bag is warmed in the same way repeatedly.

In the second test series, two bags of saline, 0.51% 300 mL and 0.55% 480 mL respectively were prepared, cooled and then warmed one after the other, in alternating order, a total of 12 times. This revealed that there is a marked effective power increase when a bag is warmed subsequently as opposed to first. For the smaller volume bag, the mean effective power output when warmed first compared to when warmed subsequently was 202.48 W (SD 6.93) and 219.30 W (SD 9.30) respectively. For the larger volume bag, the mean effective power output when warmed first compared to when warmed subsequently was 265.97 W (SD 3.93) and 276.66 W (SD 2.15) respectively. Interestingly the difference in effective

power output observed between first and subsequent warming instances was larger for the smaller volume bag (16.82 W) than was evident in larger volume bag (10.69 W).

Sample Size Calculation

The aim of the study is to describe the mean effective power output for the Taurus 301 when used in the setting of massive transfusion. It was hypothesised that the device' mean effective power output would be greatest for the fourth bag warmed in a given batch. This aim required that the mean effective power output of the fourth bag in the batch, be adequately described.

Sample size calculation

Given the normal distribution of data observed in pilot experiments, making use of the observed standard deviation for a single unit warmed repeatedly in the same fashion (SD 4.51), and setting a margin of error to slightly less than 1% of the mean (2 W), a sample size of 23 was calculated to be sufficient to describe the mean effective power output as per the primary aim with a 95% level confidence.(59) We aimed to collect data from 24 batches of warming instances such that at the time of sub-group analysis of the dataset according to each of the four bags prepared, there would be equal numbers in each sub-group.

Data Analysis

For every warming instance the effective power output was calculated as described in equation 1 below:

$$P_e = \frac{\Delta T(m_p c_p + m_s c_s)}{t}$$

Equation 1: Where P_e is the effective power output in watts (W); ΔT is the difference between bag temperatures measured before and after a warming instance in degrees Kelvin (K); m_p is the mass of the empty PVC bag in grams (g); c_p is the specific heat of PVC(60) (J/g.K); m_s is the mass of saline added to the bag (g); c_s is the specific heat of saline(61) (J/g.K); t is the time taken for the warming cycle in seconds (s)

The statistical tools available in the IBM SPSS Statistics (Version 28.0.1.1) package were used to analyse the data.

Data collected during pilot experiment demonstrated a normal distribution of effective power output by the Taurus 301. Similarly, data collected during this experiment were predicted to exhibit normal distribution. Normality testing was, however, repeated to inform further statistical analysis.

The study primary aim was realised by analysing data collected during the warming of all the bags of simulated blood, and grouping these according to warming sequence number in order to describe the mean effective power output for each position within a batch. With reference to the study secondary aim, a two-tail t-test was used to make comparison between the effective power output observed for units warmed first and those warmed

subsequently. Additionally, repeat measures ANOVA was used to determine between which levels the increase in effective power output was statistically significant.

Further analysis of the dataset was also be undertaken to explore the contribution of conductive heat transfer, from the Taurus take-up plate, to total energy delivery to the simulated bags of blood. The take-up plate makes direct contact with the 0.4mm thick PVC blood bag throughout the warming cycle. A roughly rectangular area of contact is formed between the side of the PVC bag and the take-up plate. A surface area of approximately 104 cm² is available where conductive heat energy exchange may take place, over the PVC bag, during warming (Fig. 15).



Figure 15 - A roughly rectangular impression, measuring 8x13cm, made by a simulated blood bag used in this study

To allow for this, two linear equations were described which estimate the temperature, during the warming cycle, of the take-up plate (equation 2), and the temperature of the simulated blood (equation 3), as a function of time.

$$T_p(t) = \left(\frac{T_{pe}}{T_{ps}} \right) (t) + T_{ps}$$

Equation 2: Where $T_p(t)$ is the temperature of the take-up plate at a given time following commencement of a warming instance in degrees Kelvin (K); T_{pe} is the take-up plate end-temperature in degrees Kelvin (K); T_{ps} is the take-up plate start temperature in degrees Kelvin (K); t is the specified 1s time interval

$$T_b(t) = \left(\frac{T_{be}}{T_{bs}} \right) (t) + T_{ps}$$

Equation 3: Where $T_p(t)$ is the temperature of the take-up plate at a given time following commencement of a warming instance in degrees Kelvin (K); T_{pe} is the take-up plate end-temperature in degrees Kelvin (K); T_{ps} is the take-up plate start temperature in degrees Kelvin (K); t is the specified 1s time interval

Using the formula for conductive heat transfer, as shown in equation 4, the amount of energy exchanged between the take-up plate and bag of simulated blood being warmed was calculated for every second of the warming cycle. The total amount of energy added to each

bag, by the take-up plate, by means of conduction, was considered the sum of all the intervals calculated for the duration of the warming cycle.

$$Q_i = k_p A \Delta T / l_p$$

Equation 4: Where Q_i is the amount of energy transferred during a particular 1 second interval in joules (J); k_p is the thermal conduction coefficient for PVC (W/m.K); A is the area of contact between the take-up plate and the PVC bag (m^2); ΔT is the temperature gradient between the take-up plate and the bag (considered to have homogenous temperature) in degrees Kelvin (K); l_p is the thickness of the PVC bag in meters (m)

This was performed for the mean values associated with the first and fourth warming instances in order to calculate the theoretical contribution of conductive warming when bags are warmed both individually and serially.

The graphing tools within Microsoft® Excel® 2019 MSO (Version 2202 Build 16.0.14931.20652) were used to perform the above calculations with respect to the contributions made by conductive warming.

5. RESULTS

As per the sample size calculated above, each batch of 4 bags of simulated small volume red cell concentrate was exposed to 24 warming cycles. Data were thus collected relating to 96 individual warming instances. Data collected during one batch were discarded as the warming process was interrupted on account of clinical need for the Taurus 301 being used in the experiment. The warming of this batch was then repeated after the bags had again been cooled as per the protocol described above.

Normal distribution of effective power output observed was confirmed using the Shapiro-Wilk test (Appendix E: Table 1).

One-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) showed no significant difference between the effective power observed for each of the four bags of simulated small volume red cell concentrate which were prepared (Appendix E: Table 2). This analysis suggests that the four bags behaved similarly within the Taurus 301 and during temperature measurement.

The Taurus 301 mean effective power output, when considering all warming instances, was 172.04 W (n = 96; 95% CI 169.61 – 174.47) (Appendix E: Table 3). A mean effective power output of 153.11 W (n=24; 95% CI 151.37 – 154.85) and 181.61 W (n=24; 95% CI 179.95 – 183.26) was observed when warming the first bag and last bag in each batch respectively (Fig. 16) (Appendix E: Table 4). Taurus maximum power output was thus seen to be observed during warming of the last bag in a batch.

A statistically significant upward trend in the mean effective power output, as a function of position within the batch of warming instances, was observed between the first and second ($p < 0.001$), as well as between the second and third ($p < 0.001$) bags warmed (Appendix E: Table 5). First, second, third and fourth bags demonstrated powers of 153.11 W (n=24; 95% CI 151.37 – 154.85), 174.29 W (n=24; 95% CI 172.24 – 176.46), 179.17W (n=24; 95% CI 177.62 – 180.71), and 181.61 W (n=24; 95% CI 179.95 – 183.26) respectively (Fig. 16) (Appendix E: Table 4).

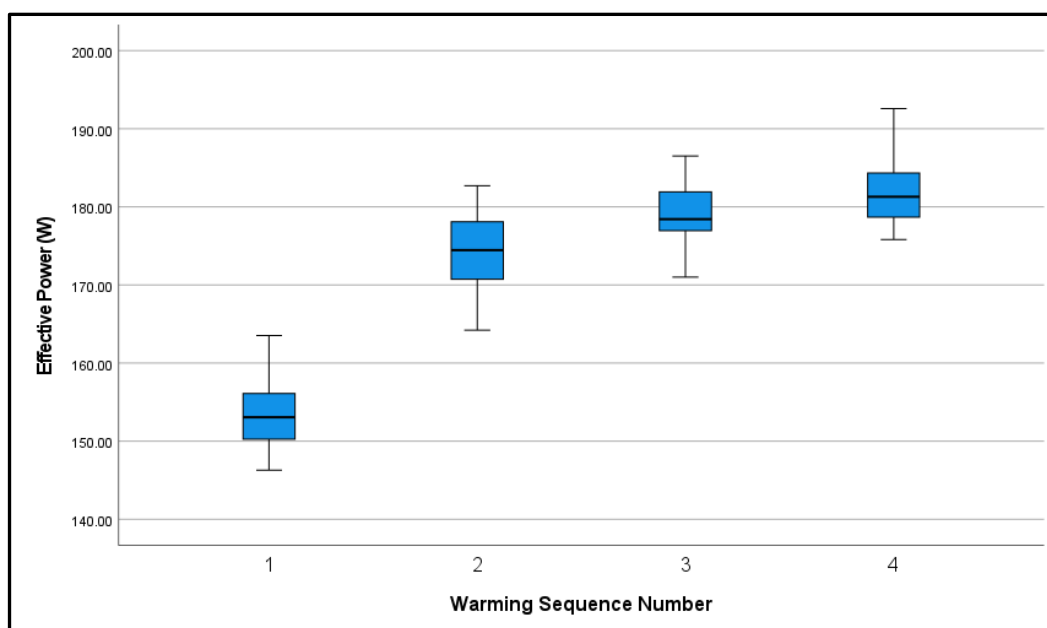


Figure 16 - Graph of effective power output for each position within the batches of warming instances

Increase in mean effective power output by 28.5 W ($p < 0.0001$, 95% CI 26.16 – 30.84) was observed when comparing the first and fourth bags warmed in a batch of warming instances (Table 1).

Comparing means for Effective Power Output between first and fourth bag warmed in a batch (t-test for Equality of Means)							
	t	df		Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the	
			Two-Sided p			Lower	Upper
Effective Power (W)	24.536	46	<0.0001	28.49875	1.16149	26.16079	30.83671

Table 1 - Results of a two-tail t-test comparing means for effective power output observed for the first and fourth bags in a batch of warming instances

An increase in the mean starting temperature of the take-up plate within the Taurus 301, by 7.97 °C ($p < 0.001$; 95% CI 7.44 to 8.49), was observed between the first and second warming instance. Mean temperature increases of less magnitude, 1.10 °C and 0.30 °C respectively, were observed between subsequent warming instances (Fig. 17) (Appendix E: Table 6).

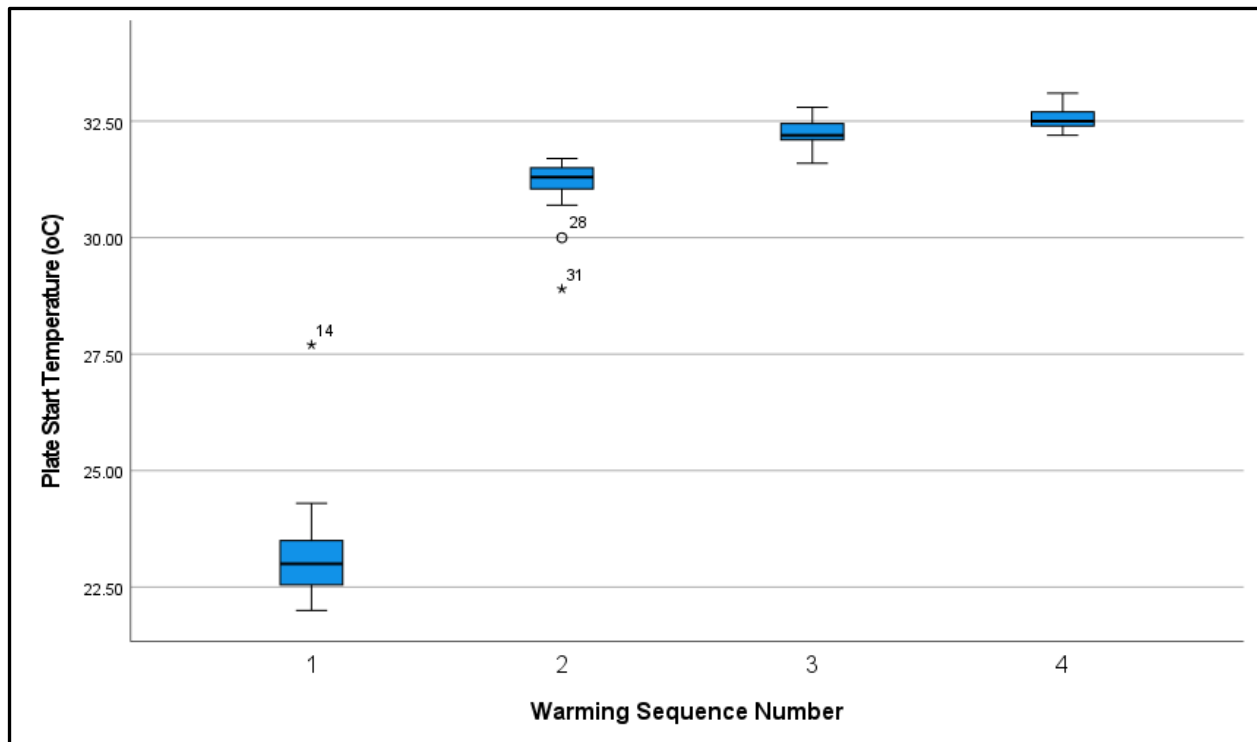


Figure 17 - Graph demonstrating increase in Taurus 301 take-up plate starting temperature following each warming instance in a batch

The mean temperature of each of the bags measured at the end of a warming cycle demonstrated a downward trend (Fig. 18). The decrease in mean bag end-temperature was, however, only statistically significant between the first and second warming cycles (0.4 °C; $p = 0.011$; 95% CI 0.0625 to 0.7292) (Appendix E: Table 7). A similar observation was made during the initial evaluation of the Taurus model 300.(14)

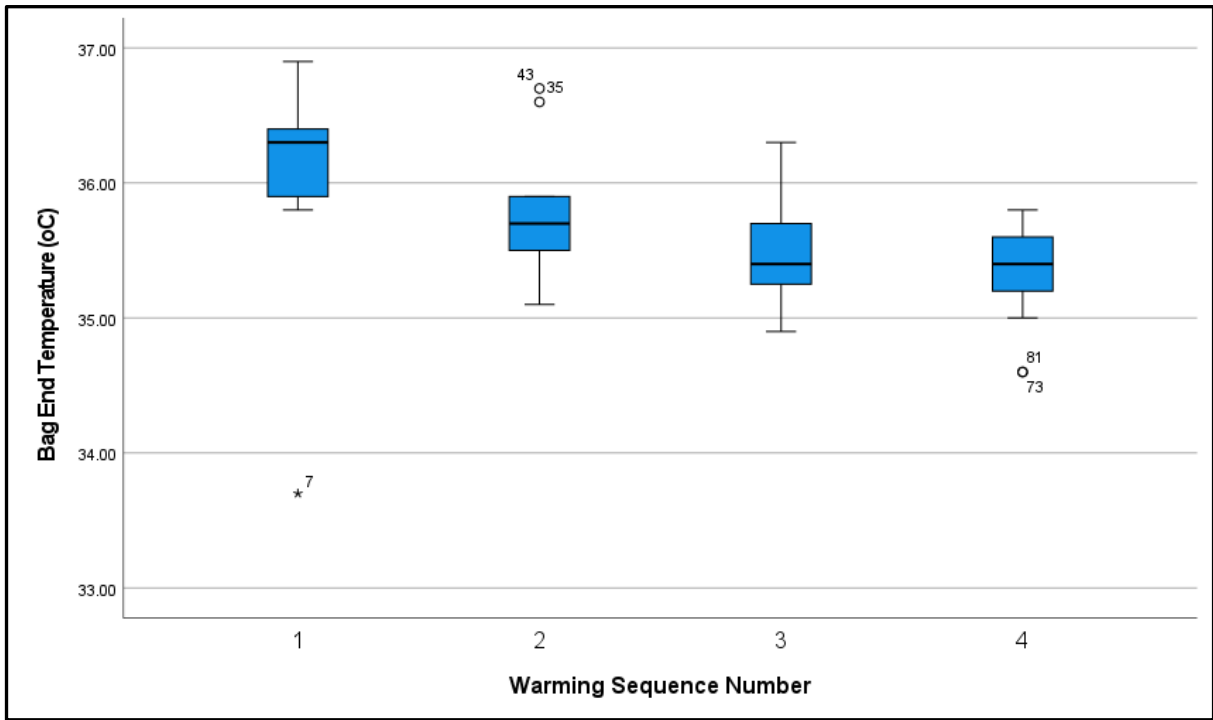


Figure 18 - Graph demonstrating decrease in bag temperature following each warming instance in a batch

The mean duration of each warming instance within a batch demonstrated a decreasing trend where durations were 185 s, 160 s, 155 s and 152 s respectively (Fig. 19). Statistically significant decrease in warming cycle duration was observed between the first and second ($p < 0.001$), as well as second and third ($p < 0.05$), but not the third and fourth ($p = 0.479$), warming instance) (Appendix E: Table 8).

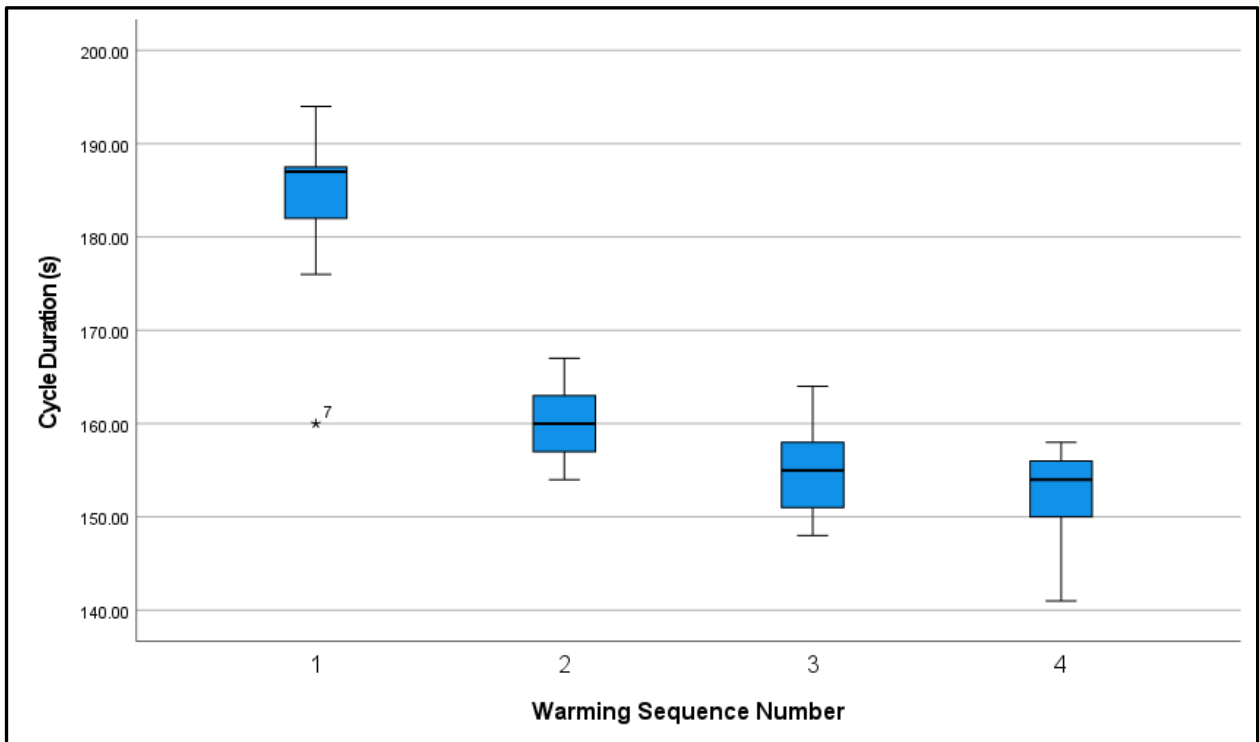


Figure 1915 - Graph demonstrating decrease in warming cycle duration following each warming instance in a batch

When considering the total amount of energy added to each bag, as a function of the batch warming sequence number, no significant differences were observable (Fig. 20) (Appendix E: Table 9).

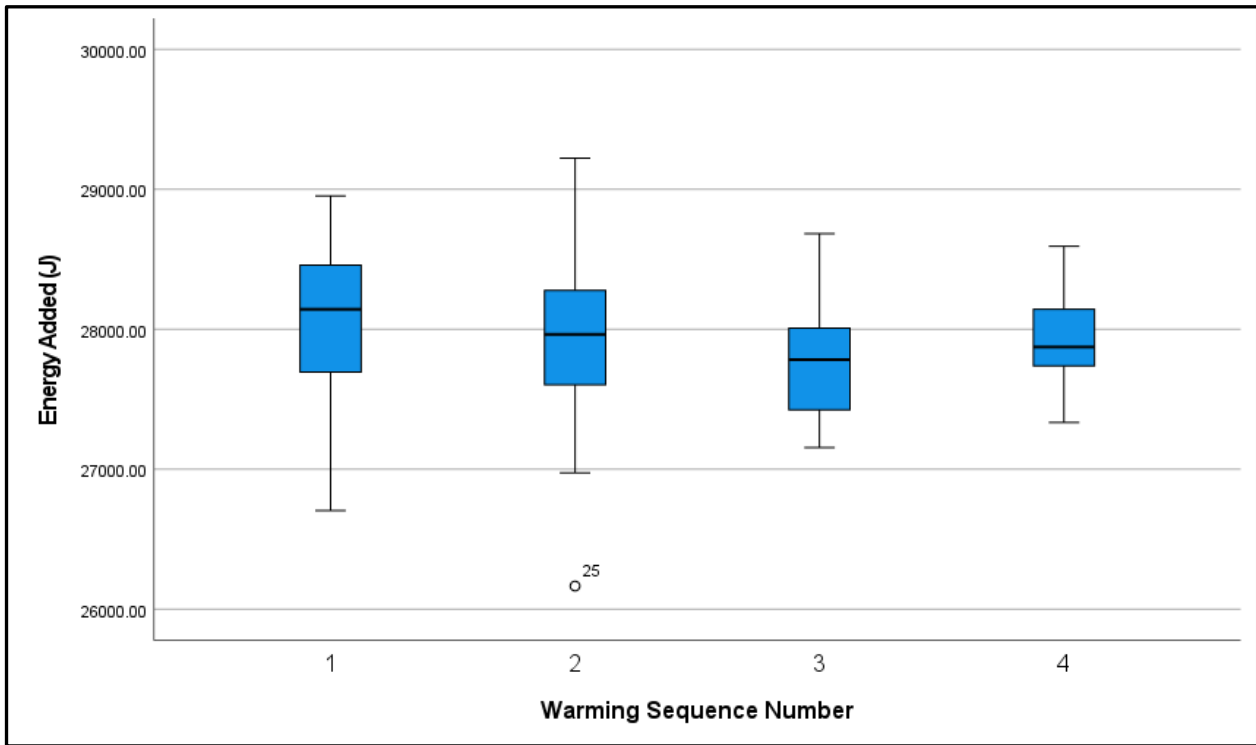


Figure 20 - Graph demonstrating quantity of energy added following each warming instance in a batch

During the first, and fourth warming instance of a batch the mean energy transferred into the bag, by means of conduction, was estimated to be 37.5 W and 97.0 W respectively (Fig. 21, 22). Estimate is thus that conductive heating may contribute as much as 59.5 W more towards warming in the fourth, compared to the first warming instance in a batch.

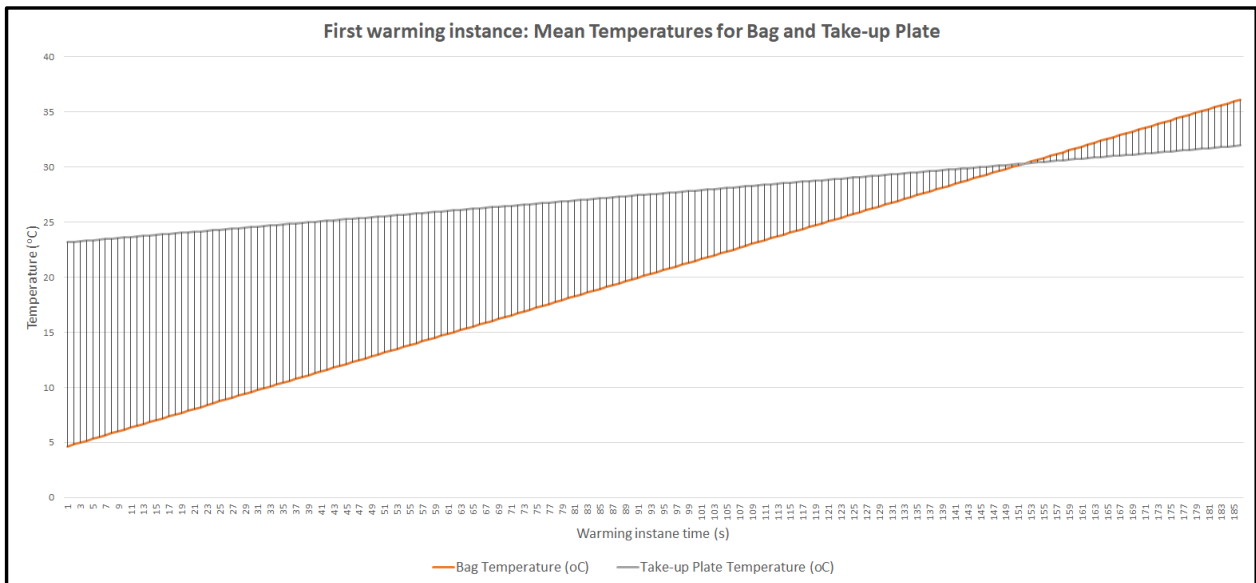


Figure 161 - Graph depicting conductive energy transfer (vertical lines), for the first warming cycle in a batch, over time

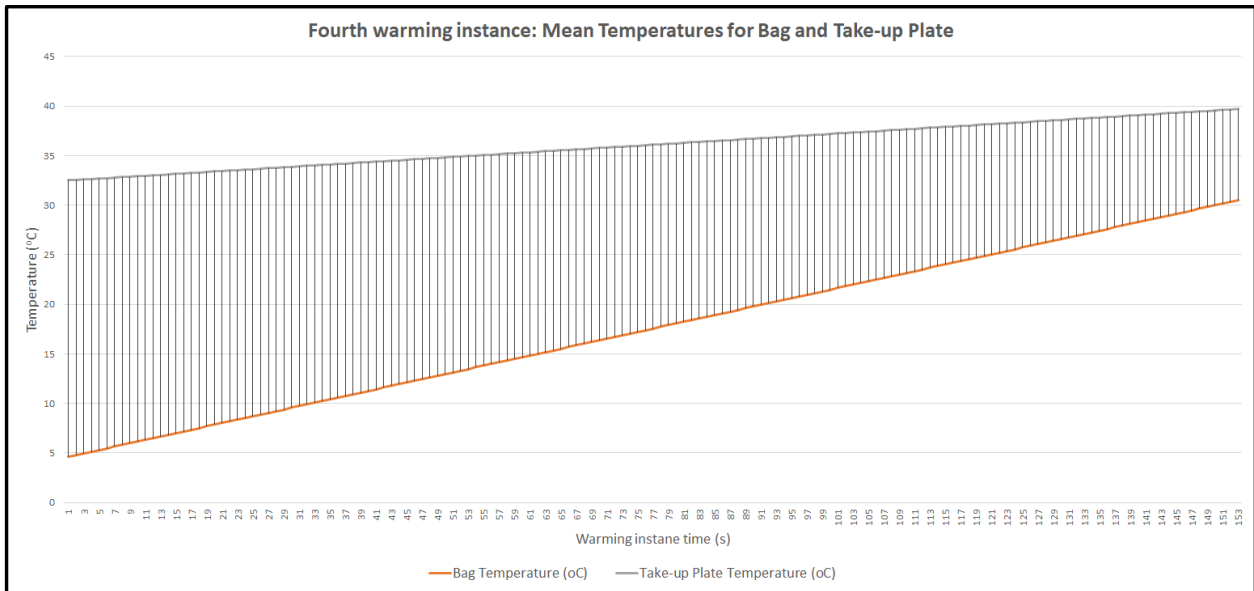


Figure 22- Graph depicting conductive energy transfer (vertical lines), for the fourth warming cycle in a batch, over time

6. DISCUSSION

With reference to the study aims

This aims of this study have both been successfully realised. With reference to the main aim, the mean effective power output of the Taurus 301, in the setting of massive transfusion is 172.04 W (95% CI 169.61 – 174.47); and with reference to the secondary aim, it is now known that there is a statistically significant increase in effective power output when the device is used to warm bags serially. A mean effective power output of 153.11 W (SD 4.12) and 181.61 W (SD 3.92) was observed when warming the first bag and last bag in each batch respectively.

Increase in effective power output

The most striking feature revealed by analysis of the data collected is that of significant increase in effective power delivered by the Taurus 301 following completion of the first warming cycle. This represents an increase in power by more than 16%. Two possible explanations for this phenomenon have been proposed:

Valve triode warm up time

First, valve triodes are known to require an amount of time to “warm up”. Prior to this the valve will not have attained its nominal operating characteristics and power delivery may thus remain sub-maximal for some time.(62) The datasheet for the Phillips TB 3/750 valve triode does not specify a range of typical operating temperatures, nor any typical “warm up” times, likely as these are dependent on both how the valve is implemented within a circuit, as well as the load under which it functions.(63)

An attempt to quantify the contribution of valve triode “warm up” time to the observed increase in effective power output as described is beyond the scope of this study.

Conductive warming

Second, those who thought the Taurus 301 to be a “hot plate” warmer may have been at least partially correct in their assumption. Data in this study have revealed a marked increase in the starting temperature of the circular, movable metal plate (take-up plate) within the Taurus 301 following the warming of the first bag (Fig. 17).

This study has collected insufficient data to allow for the determination, beyond rough estimate, of the extent to which conduction of heat energy contributes to the function of the Taurus 301. There is, however, sufficient data to show, as demonstrated in Appendix D, that heat energy added by means of conduction could be entirely responsible for the 28.5 W of observed difference in effective power output between bags warmed first (153.11 W, 95% CI 151.37 - 154.85) and those warmed fourth (181.61 W, 95% CI 179.95 – 183.26) in a batch (Fig. 16) (Appendix E: Table 5).

Decrease in bag end point temperature

The downward trend in observed bag temperature achieved in this study (Fig. 18) is of smaller magnitude than was described during the initial evaluation of the Taurus 300.(14) Design changes were likely implemented which mitigated this problem. It is thought that as the chassis of the device warms during operation, the thermistor in the door is similarly warmed and contributes to earlier than intended termination of the warming cycle.

Decrease in cycle duration

The marked decrease in cycle duration observed (Fig. 19) did not result in a corresponding decrease in total amount of energy added (Fig. 20). Rather, there was no statistically significant difference in mean energy added to bags when grouped according to warming sequence number (Appendix E: Table 9). This phenomenon is explained by the fact that the warming cycle for each bag is terminated when the bag reaches a certain temperature, and given the increase in effective power output of the Taurus 301, as a function of warming sequence number, the warming cycle is completed in less time.

Taurus 301 maximum output power observed

Whilst the data collected clearly reveal an increase in the Taurus 301 effective power output as a function of temporal position within the batch of warming instances, it is not clear to what extent an increase in RF electromagnetic energy is responsible. The primary aim of this study has been realised and the Taurus maximum power output shown to take place during warming of the last bag in a batch of four.

Targeting this maximum value in a modernised prototype Taurus should, however, be cautioned against given that data analysis points to an increase in conductive heat transfer being more likely responsible for the increase in effective power. Alternatively, those who seek to modernise the Taurus may consider taking advantage of heat energy transfer by conduction and actively warm the surfaces which come into direct contact with the PVC blood bags. Such practice may result in a decrease reliance on RF energy for warming.

7. LIMITATIONS

The Taurus 301 is a complex device that has demonstrated the ability to safely warm blood. This study has, however, not examined many aspects of the device which contribute towards this ability to perform its function safely. Other researchers may wish to explore in more detail the Taurus mixing mechanism and device component temperatures during operation.

Taurus mixing mechanism

On the inside of the door of the Taurus 301 is a rectangular faceplate on which the bag of blood to be warmed is hung. Within the door of the Taurus 301 is a motor which actively drives the faceplate. When the door of the device is closed the bag is squeezed between the rectangular faceplate and the circular take-up plate. The bag and take-up plate move in sympathy with the faceplate. When activated the motor rotates the bag slowly in one direction and then rapidly back in the other before coming to an abrupt stop against a rubber stopper (Fig. 23). This asymmetrical movement may play an important role in the mixing of the fluid within the PVC bag during the warming process, thus preventing localised over heating.

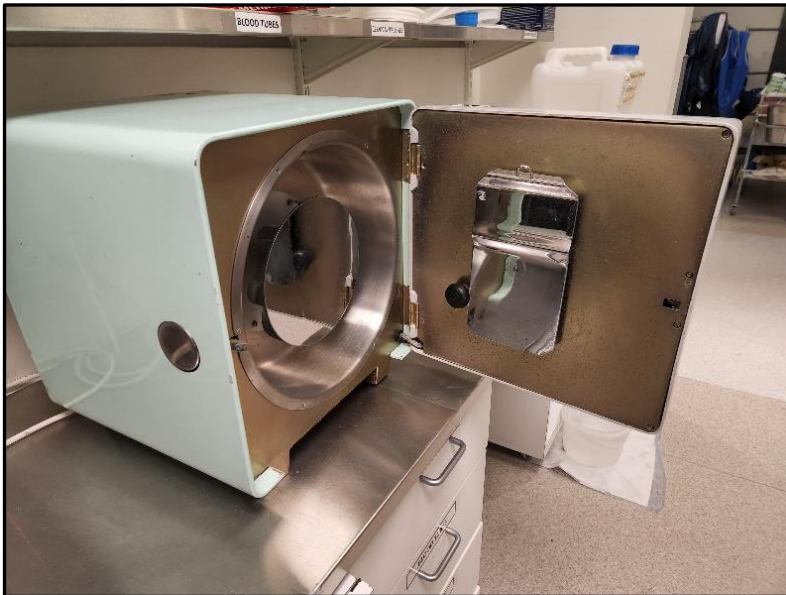


Figure 2317 - A Taurus 301 with door open revealing the rectangular faceplate on the door and the circular take-up plate within the body of the device

Taurus component temperatures

During this study we investigated only the temperature of one plate within the warming cavity. To properly understand the movement of energy in and out of the bag, temperatures of both plates, the surrounding chassis, and the air temperature within the device should be measured. With these additional values it may be possible to accurately characterise the Taurus 301 function in terms of conduction, convection and radiation.

Study design limitations

Other factors identified which further limit the value of the study include:

- i) Only one Taurus 301 device was studied

- ii) The study made use of saline as a blood analogue
- iii) Temperatures were recorded at the beginning and the end of each warming cycle rather than continuously during the warming process

8. CONCLUSION

The aims of this study have been realised in that the maximum effective power output of the Taurus 301, for simulated small volume bags of red cell concentrate, in the setting of massive transfusion, has been determined. It has also been demonstrated that the device exhibits a significant increase in effective power output following the warming of the first bag in a batch. This research has provided an objective effective power output value which is likely a safe target for a prototype modernised Taurus.

Further insight has also been gained regarding the important contribution that conductive heating makes towards the Taurus 301 functionality. An increase in transfer of heat energy by conduction is proposed as the most likely mechanism responsible for the increase in effective power output following the warming of the first bag in a batch as described above. Recommendation to those who seek to modernise the Taurus is thus to target not the maximum power demonstrated in this study, but rather the effective power output characterising the warming of the first unit in a batch of warming instances.

Those clinicians who continue to make use of the Taurus 301 may also continue to do so with confidence given that, despite increase in effective power output observed when used to warm blood serially, the device did not over heat any bags, and added similar quantities of energy to each bag warmed regardless of position within a batch of bags being warmed.

During the process of literature review, pilot and data collection, the author has also gained a deeper appreciation for the complexity of the Taurus 301 and the need for further research into the performance of the device' mixing mechanism. Further, efforts at Taurus modernisation will benefit from being able to use, whilst developing a prototype, the same, easily reproducible and freely available simulated blood bag as has been described in this study.

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Appendix A: Data Collection Form

(The data collection form used during the experiment may be found following this page)

Appendix B: Pilot Data

(Spreadsheets containing data collected during pilot experiments may be found following this page)

Data Collection Form --- Taurus 301 (Pilot) Performance Test

Date	Time	Operator	Fluid_ID	Warming instance	Start Temperature (degC)	End Temperature (degC)	Taurus cycle duration (s)
					Thermocouple	Thermocouple	
2022/12/05	15:28	Eave	1	1	4.9	35.2	198
2022/12/06	7:20	Eave	1	2	4.0	35.7	220
2022/12/06	14:23	Eave	1	3	4.4	35.9	215
2022/12/07	8:10	Eave	1	5	4.3	35.8	218
2022/12/07	13:08	Eave	1	6	5.0	35.0	206
2022/12/08	9:05	Eave	1	7	3.5	35.5	210
2022/12/08	16:23	Eave	1	8	4.4	36.0	220
2022/12/09	7:26	Eave	1	9	4.6	36.0	214
2022/12/09	12:30	Eave	1	10	4.5	35.3	210
2022/12/09	16:18	Eave	1	11	4.6	35.2	208
2022/12/12	12:06	Eave	1	12	4.1	35.9	215
2022/12/12	15:37	Eave	1	13	4.1	35.7	211
2022/12/13	10:18	Eave	1	14	4.5	36.2	222
2022/12/13	16:20	Eave	1	15	4.8	36.3	216
2022/12/14	8:53	Eave	1	16	4.6	36.3	217
2022/12/14	16:05	Eave	1	17	4.3	35.8	220
2022/12/17	7:18	Eave	1	18	4.4	36.2	221
2022/12/17	12:23	Eave	1	19	4.3	36.3	210
2022/12/17	4:25	Eave	1	20	4.1	35.2	210
2022/12/18	7:50	Eave	1	21	4.5	35.6	217
2022/12/18	13:01	Eave	1	22	4.1	36.3	217
2022/12/18	17:10	Eave	1	23	3.5	35.5	210
2022/12/19	7:20	Eave	1	24	4.1	35.7	211
2022/12/19	12:50	Eave	1	25	4.1	35.8	209

Results --- Taurus 301 (Pilot) Performance Test

Effective Power (W)
212.1
199.71
203.0651163
200.2706422
201.8446602
211.2
199.08
203.3663551
203.28
203.9019231
204.9990698
207.571564
197.9108108
202.125
202.4709677
198.45
199.4334842
211.2
205.26
198.6387097
205.6645161
211.2
207.571564
210.2210526

Appendix C: Raw Data

(Spreadsheet containing raw data collected during the study may be found following this page)

Record_No	Data_ID	Date	Batch_Start_Time	Operator	Bag_ID	Warming_Sequence_No	First_or_Subsequent	First_or_Last	Temperature_Ambient_Start
1.1	1	20/03/2023	7:53	Eave	1	1	1	1	22.2
1.2	2	20/03/2023	7:53	Eave	2	2	2	0	22.2
1.3	3	20/03/2023	7:53	Eave	3	3	2	0	22.2
1.4	4	20/03/2023	7:53	Eave	4	4	2	2	22.2
1.5	5	20/03/2023	14:04	Eave	2	1	1	1	22.4
1.6	6	20/03/2023	14:04	Eave	3	2	2	0	22.4
1.7	7	20/03/2023	14:04	Eave	4	3	2	0	22.4
1.8	8	20/03/2023	14:04	Eave	1	4	2	2	22.4
2.1	9	22/03/2023	8:03	Eave	3	1	1	1	21.3
2.2	10	22/03/2023	8:03	Eave	4	2	2	0	21.3
2.3	11	22/03/2023	8:03	Eave	1	3	2	0	21.3
2.4	12	22/03/2023	8:03	Eave	2	4	2	2	21.3
2.5	13	22/03/2023	15:02	Eave	4	1	1	1	21.6
2.6	14	22/03/2023	15:02	Eave	1	2	2	0	21.6
2.7	15	22/03/2023	15:02	Eave	2	3	2	0	21.6
2.8	16	22/03/2023	15:02	Eave	3	4	2	2	21.6
3.1	17	23/03/2023	9:10	Eave	1	1	1	1	22.1
3.2	18	23/03/2023	9:10	Eave	2	2	2	0	22.1
3.3	19	23/03/2023	9:10	Eave	3	3	2	0	22.1
3.4	20	23/03/2023	9:10	Eave	4	4	2	2	22.1
4.1	21	24/03/2023	7:38	Eave	2	1	1	1	22.4
4.2	22	24/03/2023	7:38	Eave	3	2	2	0	22.4
4.3	23	24/03/2023	7:38	Eave	4	3	2	0	22.4
4.4	24	24/03/2023	7:38	Eave	1	4	2	2	22.4
4.5	25	24/03/2023	15:00	Eave	3	1	1	1	21.9
4.6	26	24/03/2023	15:00	Eave	4	2	2	0	21.9
4.7	27	24/03/2023	15:00	Eave	1	3	2	0	21.9
4.8	28	24/03/2023	15:00	Eave	2	4	2	2	21.9
5.1	29	27/03/2023	8:20	Eave	4	1	1	1	22.3
5.2	30	27/03/2023	8:20	Eave	1	2	2	0	22.3
5.3	31	27/03/2023	8:20	Eave	2	3	2	0	22.3
5.4	32	27/03/2023	8:20	Eave	3	4	2	2	22.3
5.5	33	27/03/2023	14:46	Eave	1	1	1	1	21.7
5.6	34	27/03/2023	14:46	Eave	2	2	2	0	21.7
5.7	35	27/03/2023	14:46	Eave	3	3	2	0	21.7
5.8	36	27/03/2023	14:46	Eave	4	4	2	2	21.7
6.1	37	28/03/2023	8:10	Eave	2	1	1	1	21.7
6.2	38	28/03/2023	8:10	Eave	3	2	2	0	21.7
6.3	39	28/03/2023	8:10	Eave	4	3	2	0	21.7
6.4	40	28/03/2023	8:10	Eave	1	4	2	2	21.7
6.5	41	28/03/2023	14:46	Eave	3	1	1	1	21.8
6.6	42	28/03/2023	14:46	Eave	4	2	2	0	21.8
6.7	43	28/03/2023	14:46	Eave	1	3	2	0	21.8
6.8	44	28/03/2023	14:46	Eave	2	4	2	2	21.8
7.1	45	29/03/2023	11:00	Eave	4	1	1	1	21.6
7.2	46	29/03/2023	11:00	Eave	1	2	2	0	21.6
7.3	47	29/03/2023	11:00	Eave	2	3	2	0	21.6
7.4	48	29/03/2023	11:00	Eave	3	4	2	2	21.6
7.5	49	29/03/2023	15:05	Eave	1	1	1	1	21.6
7.6	50	29/03/2023	15:05	Eave	2	2	2	0	21.6
7.7	51	29/03/2023	15:05	Eave	3	3	2	0	21.6
7.8	52	29/03/2023	15:05	Eave	4	4	2	2	21.6
8.1	53	30/03/2023	7:25	Eave	2	1	1	1	21.7
8.2	54	30/03/2023	7:25	Eave	3	2	2	0	21.7
8.3	55	30/03/2023	7:25	Eave	4	3	2	0	21.7
8.4	56	30/03/2023	7:25	Eave	1	4	2	2	21.7
8.5	57	30/03/2023	14:00	Eave	3	1	1	1	21.5
8.6	58	30/03/2023	14:00	Eave	4	2	2	0	21.5
8.7	59	30/03/2023	14:00	Eave	1	3	2	0	21.5
8.8	60	30/03/2023	14:00	Eave	2	4	2	2	21.5
9.1	61	31/03/2023	7:20	Eave	4	1	1	1	21.6

9.2	62	31/03/2023	7:20	Eave	1	2	2	0	21.6
9.3	63	31/03/2023	7:20	Eave	2	3	2	0	21.6
9.4	64	31/03/2023	7:20	Eave	3	4	2	2	21.6
9.5	65	31/03/2023	15:00	Eave	1	1	1	1	21.8
9.6	66	31/03/2023	15:00	Eave	2	2	2	0	21.8
9.7	67	31/03/2023	15:00	Eave	3	3	2	0	21.8
9.8	68	31/03/2023	15:00	Eave	4	4	2	2	21.8
10.1	69	03/04/2023	11:00	Eave	2	1	1	1	21.5
10.2	70	03/04/2023	11:00	Eave	3	2	2	0	21.5
10.3	71	03/04/2023	11:00	Eave	4	3	2	0	21.5
10.4	72	03/04/2023	11:00	Eave	1	4	2	2	21.5
10.5	73	03/04/2023	15:00	Eave	3	1	1	1	21.7
10.6	74	03/04/2023	15:00	Eave	4	2	2	0	21.7
10.7	75	03/04/2023	15:00	Eave	1	3	2	0	21.7
10.8	76	03/04/2023	15:00	Eave	2	4	2	2	21.7
11.1	77	04/04/2023	7:30	Eave	4	1	1	1	21.8
11.2	78	04/04/2023	7:30	Eave	1	2	2	0	21.8
11.3	79	04/04/2023	7:30	Eave	2	3	2	0	21.8
11.4	80	04/04/2023	7:30	Eave	3	4	2	2	21.8
12.1	81	05/04/2023	7:40	Eave	2	1	1	1	21.9
12.2	82	05/04/2023	7:40	Eave	3	2	2	0	21.9
12.3	83	05/04/2023	7:40	Eave	4	3	2	0	21.9
12.4	84	05/04/2023	7:40	Eave	1	4	2	2	21.9
13.1	85	06/04/2023	10:05	Eave	3	1	1	1	22.1
13.2	86	06/04/2023	10:05	Eave	4	2	2	0	22.1
13.3	87	06/04/2023	10:05	Eave	1	3	2	0	22.1
13.4	88	06/04/2023	10:05	Eave	2	4	2	2	22.1
13.5	89	06/04/2023	15:30	Eave	4	1	1	1	21.3
13.6	90	06/04/2023	15:30	Eave	1	2	2	0	21.3
13.7	91	06/04/2023	15:30	Eave	2	3	2	0	21.3
13.8	92	06/04/2023	15:30	Eave	3	4	2	2	21.3
14.1	93	11/04/2023	8:25	Eave	1	1	1	1	21.7
14.2	94	11/04/2023	8:25	Eave	2	2	2	0	21.7
14.3	95	11/04/2023	8:25	Eave	3	3	2	0	21.7
14.4	96	11/04/2023	8:25	Eave	4	4	2	2	21.7

Temperature_Bag_Start	Temperature_Plate_Start	Temperature_Bag_End	Temperature_Plate_End	Time_Cycle_Duration	Effective_Power
4.6	22.5	36.5	32.1	194	147.85
4.7	31.5	35.2	32.9	167	164.22
4.9	32.3	35.3	33.4	151	181.02
4.9	32.7	34.6	32.9	143	186.75
4.7	23.6	36.0	32.6	185	152.13
4.6	31.6	35.5	32.9	156	178.10
4.7	32.1	35.4	33.3	148	186.51
4.4	32.4	35.3	33.5	153	181.60
4.5	22.3	36.4	31.9	188	152.57
4.8	30.7	35.7	33.0	154	180.42
4.1	32.1	35.7	33.3	159	178.70
3.8	32.4	35.4	33.5	158	179.83
4.6	23.0	36.4	31.1	183	156.25
4.5	30.0	35.7	32.7	167	167.99
4.3	32.0	35.3	33.5	163	171.01
4.5	32.7	35.2	33.3	154	179.25
4.5	23.0	36.4	32.2	193	148.62
4.2	31.4	35.5	33.4	166	169.54
4.2	32.5	34.9	32.8	149	185.26
4.1	32.3	35.5	33.4	155	182.15
4.2	22.4	36.4	32.7	189	153.19
4.4	31.7	35.9	32.5	162	174.84
4.6	31.6	36.3	33.3	160	178.15
4.1	32.4	35.6	33.4	156	181.56
4.6	22.9	33.7	29.6	160	163.53
4.3	28.9	35.9	32.7	161	176.48
4.3	32.0	35.4	33.3	158	176.99
4.6	32.5	35.4	33.5	156	177.53
4.4	22.2	36.9	31.9	187	156.27
4.2	31.1	35.7	33.0	163	173.76
4.5	32.2	35.9	33.6	157	179.83
4.8	32.7	35.0	32.9	141	192.59
4.4	23.1	36.4	32.3	187	153.87
4.5	31.5	35.2	33.0	158	174.71
4.8	32.1	35.0	32.9	149	182.25
4.6	32.2	34.6	32.9	145	186.03
4.8	22.6	36.1	32.4	191	147.35
4.8	31.6	35.7	33.1	161	172.57
4.5	32.1	35.0	33.3	150	182.83
4.3	32.2	35.1	33.5	157	176.40
4.5	23.2	35.9	31.7	181	155.99
5.0	30.7	36.6	32.8	159	178.70
4.6	31.8	35.3	33.3	156	176.95
4.5	32.5	35.6	33.2	155	180.41
4.5	22.8	35.8	31.7	184	152.95
4.4	30.9	35.7	33.0	167	168.53
4.3	32.3	35.9	33.3	164	173.25
4.7	32.5	35.7	33.5	155	179.83
4.9	24.0	35.8	32.2	181	153.50
4.9	31.3	35.3	33.1	157	174.10
5.0	32.2	35.2	33.2	153	177.48
4.9	32.4	35.7	33.3	150	184.63
4.4	27.7	35.8	32.3	193	146.29
4.6	31.5	35.9	32.8	158	178.12
4.7	32.1	36.2	33.3	157	180.40
4.6	32.5	35.6	33.7	156	178.68
4.5	23.0	36.4	31.9	187	153.39
4.8	31.3	35.8	32.9	158	176.42
4.5	32.3	35.5	33.2	158	176.42
4.5	32.4	35.4	32.9	156	178.10
5.0	22.7	36.1	32.2	187	149.54

4.8	31.4	35.7	33.1	163	170.45
4.8	32.6	35.2	33.5	155	176.35
4.8	32.9	35.3	33.6	154	178.08
4.3	23.1	35.8	32.1	187	151.46
4.9	31.4	35.1	33.2	160	169.72
4.8	32.5	35.3	33.3	154	178.08
4.7	32.6	35.5	33.3	150	184.63
4.8	22.6	36.0	32.0	187	150.02
4.4	31.3	35.3	33.0	156	178.10
4.9	32.1	35.2	33.2	151	180.43
4.9	32.5	35.6	33.3	157	175.82
5.0	24.3	36.4	31.8	176	160.42
5.0	31.2	36.7	33.3	156	182.71
4.9	32.6	35.8	33.5	153	181.60
4.9	32.8	35.3	33.6	151	181.02
5.0	23.4	36.4	32.1	187	150.98
4.9	31.4	35.9	33.5	163	171.01
5.0	32.7	35.4	32.8	155	176.35
5.0	33.1	35.4	33.8	150	182.23
4.6	23.8	35.9	32.3	187	150.50
4.7	31.7	35.7	33.2	160	174.21
4.6	32.8	35.4	33.1	151	183.40
4.6	32.3	35.1	33.3	151	181.62
4.9	24.0	36.2	31.8	180	156.35
5.0	31.0	35.9	32.8	156	178.10
4.6	32.1	35.7	33.3	158	176.99
4.8	32.7	35.8	33.4	156	178.68
5.0	22.1	36.6	31.9	185	153.59
5.0	31.1	35.9	33.1	157	176.97
4.6	32.3	35.7	33.3	153	182.77
4.8	32.6	35.8	33.2	149	187.07
4.7	22.0	36.5	31.8	181	157.97
4.6	31.3	35.8	33.1	162	173.17
4.8	32.4	35.7	33.6	157	176.97
4.7	32.8	35.2	33.3	149	184.06

Appendix D: Conductive Heat Energy Calculations

(Spreadsheet demonstrating calculations estimating conductive heat energy transfer)

Mass of empty bag (g)	30		
Mass of bag filled (g)	240		
Mass of fluid (g)	210		
Contact area (mm ²) & (m ²) & (cm ²)	10956	0.010956	109.56
PVC_thickness (mm) & (m)	0.3		
PVC_thermal_conductivity	0.19		
PVC_specific_heat (J/g)	0.88		
Saline_specific_heat (J/g)	4.156		

	First warming instance	Fourth warming instance
Plate start temperature (mean)	23.17916667	32.54583333
Plate end temperature (mean)	31.94166667	33.34166667
Bag start temperature (mean)	4.641666667	4.604166667
Bag end temperature (mean)	36.11666667	35.3625
Duration of warming cycle (mean)	185	152.375
Bag rate of temperature rise (degC/s)	0.170135135	0.201859448
Plate rate of temperature rise (degC/s)	0.047364865	0.00522286

Contact area (mm^2) & (m^2) & (cm^2)	10400	0.0104
PVC_thickness (mm) & (m)	0.4	0.0004
PVC_thermal_conductivity	0.2	
PVC_specific_heat (J/g)	0.88	$\frac{Q}{t} = kA \frac{T_1 - T_2}{l}$
Saline_specific_heat (J/g)	4.156	

	First warming instance	Fourth warming instance
Conductive Heat Transfer Rate (W)	37.54435135	97.03044743

Time	Bag Temperature	Take-up Plate Te	Delta_T	Energy_transfer	Cumulative_energy_transfer
0	4.641666667	23.17916667	18.5375	96.395	96.395
1	4.811801802	23.22653153	18.41473	95.75659459	192.1515946
2	4.981936937	23.2738964	18.291959	95.11818919	287.2697838
3	5.152072072	23.32126126	18.169189	94.47978378	381.7495676
4	5.322207207	23.36862613	18.046419	93.84137838	475.5909459
5	5.492342342	23.41599099	17.923649	93.20297297	568.7939189
6	5.662477477	23.46335586	17.800878	92.56456757	661.3584865
7	5.832612613	23.51072072	17.678108	91.92616216	753.2846486
8	6.002747748	23.55808559	17.555338	91.28775676	844.5724054
9	6.172882883	23.60545045	17.432568	90.64935135	935.2217568
10	6.343018018	23.65281532	17.309797	90.01094595	1025.232703
11	6.513153153	23.70018018	17.187027	89.37254054	1114.605243
12	6.683288288	23.74754505	17.064257	88.73413514	1203.339378
13	6.853423423	23.79490991	16.941486	88.09572973	1291.435108
14	7.023558559	23.84227477	16.818716	87.45732432	1378.892432
15	7.193693694	23.88963964	16.695946	86.81891892	1465.711351
16	7.363828829	23.9370045	16.573176	86.18051351	1551.891865
17	7.533963964	23.98436937	16.450405	85.54210811	1637.433973
18	7.704099099	24.03173423	16.327635	84.9037027	1722.337676
19	7.874234234	24.0790991	16.204865	84.2652973	1806.602973
20	8.044369369	24.12646396	16.082095	83.62689189	1890.229865
21	8.214504505	24.17382883	15.959324	82.98848649	1973.218351
22	8.38463964	24.22119369	15.836554	82.35008108	2055.568432
23	8.554774775	24.26855856	15.713784	81.71167568	2137.280108
24	8.72490991	24.31592342	15.591014	81.07327027	2218.353378
25	8.895045045	24.36328829	15.468243	80.43486486	2298.788243
26	9.06518018	24.41065315	15.345473	79.79645946	2378.584703
27	9.235315315	24.45801802	15.222703	79.15805405	2457.742757
28	9.40545045	24.50538288	15.099932	78.51964865	2536.262405
29	9.575585586	24.55274775	14.977162	77.88124324	2614.143649
30	9.745720721	24.60011261	14.854392	77.24283784	2691.386486
31	9.915855856	24.64747748	14.731622	76.60443243	2767.990919
32	10.08599099	24.69484234	14.608851	75.96602703	2843.956946
33	10.25612613	24.74220721	14.486081	75.32762162	2919.284568
34	10.42626126	24.78957207	14.363311	74.68921622	2993.973784
35	10.5963964	24.83693694	14.240541	74.05081081	3068.024595
36	10.76653153	24.8843018	14.11777	73.41240541	3141.437
37	10.93666667	24.93166667	13.995	72.774	3214.211
38	11.1068018	24.97903153	13.87223	72.13559459	3286.346595
39	11.27693694	25.0263964	13.749459	71.49718919	3357.843784
40	11.44707207	25.07376126	13.626689	70.85878378	3428.702568
41	11.61720721	25.12112613	13.503919	70.22037838	3498.922946
42	11.78734234	25.16849099	13.381149	69.58197297	3568.504919
43	11.95747748	25.21585586	13.258378	68.94356757	3637.448486
44	12.12761261	25.26322072	13.135608	68.30516216	3705.753649
45	12.29774775	25.31058559	13.012838	67.66675676	3773.420405
46	12.46788288	25.35795045	12.890068	67.02835135	3840.448757
47	12.63801802	25.40531532	12.767297	66.38994595	3906.838703
48	12.80815315	25.45268018	12.644527	65.75154054	3972.590243
49	12.97828829	25.50004505	12.521757	65.11313514	4037.703378
50	13.14842342	25.54740991	12.398986	64.47472973	4102.178108
51	13.31855856	25.59477477	12.276216	63.83632432	4166.014432
52	13.48869369	25.64213964	12.153446	63.19791892	4229.212351
53	13.65882883	25.6895045	12.030676	62.55951351	4291.771865
54	13.82896396	25.73686937	11.907905	61.92110811	4353.692973
55	13.9990991	25.78423423	11.785135	61.2827027	4414.975676

56	14.16923423	25.8315991	11.662365	60.6442973	4475.619973
57	14.33936937	25.87896396	11.539595	60.00589189	4535.625865
58	14.5095045	25.92632883	11.416824	59.36748649	4594.993351
59	14.67963964	25.97369369	11.294054	58.72908108	4653.722432
60	14.84977477	26.02105856	11.171284	58.09067568	4711.813108
61	15.01990991	26.06842342	11.048514	57.45227027	4769.265378
62	15.19004505	26.11578829	10.925743	56.81386486	4826.079243
63	15.36018018	26.16315315	10.802973	56.17545946	4882.254703
64	15.53031532	26.21051802	10.680203	55.53705405	4937.791757
65	15.70045045	26.25788288	10.557432	54.89864865	4992.690405
66	15.87058559	26.30524775	10.434662	54.26024324	5046.950649
67	16.04072072	26.35261261	10.311892	53.62183784	5100.572486
68	16.21085586	26.39997748	10.189122	52.98343243	5153.555919
69	16.38099099	26.44734234	10.066351	52.34502703	5205.900946
70	16.55112613	26.49470721	9.9435811	51.70662162	5257.607568
71	16.72126126	26.54207207	9.8208108	51.06821622	5308.675784
72	16.8913964	26.58943694	9.6980405	50.42981081	5359.105595
73	17.06153153	26.6368018	9.5752703	49.79140541	5408.897
74	17.23166667	26.68416667	9.4525	49.153	5458.05
75	17.4018018	26.73153153	9.3297297	48.51459459	5506.564595
76	17.57193694	26.7788964	9.2069595	47.87618919	5554.440784
77	17.74207207	26.82626126	9.0841892	47.23778378	5601.678568
78	17.91220721	26.87362613	8.9614189	46.59937838	5648.277946
79	18.08234234	26.92099099	8.8386486	45.96097297	5694.238919
80	18.25247748	26.96835586	8.7158784	45.32256757	5739.561486
81	18.42261261	27.01572072	8.5931081	44.68416216	5784.245649
82	18.59274775	27.06308559	8.4703378	44.04575676	5828.291405
83	18.76288288	27.11045045	8.3475676	43.40735135	5871.698757
84	18.93301802	27.15781532	8.2247973	42.76894595	5914.467703
85	19.10315315	27.20518018	8.102027	42.13054054	5956.598243
86	19.27328829	27.25254505	7.9792568	41.49213514	5998.090378
87	19.44342342	27.29990991	7.8564865	40.85372973	6038.944108
88	19.61355856	27.34727477	7.7337162	40.21532432	6079.159432
89	19.78369369	27.39463964	7.6109459	39.57691892	6118.736351
90	19.95382883	27.4420045	7.4881757	38.93851351	6157.674865
91	20.12396396	27.48936937	7.3654054	38.30010811	6195.974973
92	20.2940991	27.53673423	7.2426351	37.6617027	6233.636676
93	20.46423423	27.5840991	7.1198649	37.0232973	6270.659973
94	20.63436937	27.63146396	6.9970946	36.38489189	6307.044865
95	20.8045045	27.67882883	6.8743243	35.74648649	6342.791351
96	20.97463964	27.72619369	6.7515541	35.10808108	6377.899432
97	21.14477477	27.77355856	6.6287838	34.46967568	6412.369108
98	21.31490991	27.82092342	6.5060135	33.83127027	6446.200378
99	21.48504505	27.86828829	6.3832432	33.19286486	6479.393243
100	21.65518018	27.91565315	6.260473	32.55445946	6511.947703
101	21.82531532	27.96301802	6.1377027	31.91605405	6543.863757
102	21.99545045	28.01038288	6.0149324	31.27764865	6575.141405
103	22.16558559	28.05774775	5.8921622	30.63924324	6605.780649
104	22.33572072	28.10511261	5.7693919	30.00083784	6635.781486
105	22.50585586	28.15247748	5.6466216	29.36243243	6665.143919
106	22.67599099	28.19984234	5.5238514	28.72402703	6693.867946
107	22.84612613	28.24720721	5.4010811	28.08562162	6721.953568
108	23.01626126	28.29457207	5.2783108	27.44721622	6749.400784
109	23.1863964	28.34193694	5.1555405	26.80881081	6776.209595
110	23.35653153	28.3893018	5.0327703	26.17040541	6802.38
111	23.52666667	28.43666667	4.91	25.532	6827.912
112	23.6968018	28.48403153	4.7872297	24.89359459	6852.805595
113	23.86693694	28.5313964	4.6644595	24.25518919	6877.060784
114	24.03707207	28.57876126	4.5416892	23.61678378	6900.677568

115	24.20720721	28.62612613	4.4189189	22.97837838	6923.655946
116	24.37734234	28.67349099	4.2961486	22.33997297	6945.995919
117	24.54747748	28.72085586	4.1733784	21.70156757	6967.697486
118	24.71761261	28.76822072	4.0506081	21.06316216	6988.760649
119	24.88774775	28.81558559	3.9278378	20.42475676	7009.185405
120	25.05788288	28.86295045	3.8050676	19.78635135	7028.971757
121	25.22801802	28.91031532	3.6822973	19.14794595	7048.119703
122	25.39815315	28.95768018	3.559527	18.50954054	7066.629243
123	25.56828829	29.00504505	3.4367568	17.87113514	7084.500378
124	25.73842342	29.05240991	3.3139865	17.23272973	7101.733108
125	25.90855856	29.09977477	3.1912162	16.59432432	7118.327432
126	26.07869369	29.14713964	3.0684459	15.95591892	7134.283351
127	26.24882883	29.1945045	2.9456757	15.31751351	7149.600865
128	26.41896396	29.24186937	2.8229054	14.67910811	7164.279973
129	26.5890991	29.28923423	2.7001351	14.0407027	7178.320676
130	26.75923423	29.3365991	2.5773649	13.4022973	7191.722973
131	26.92936937	29.38396396	2.4545946	12.76389189	7204.486865
132	27.0995045	29.43132883	2.3318243	12.12548649	7216.612351
133	27.26963964	29.47869369	2.2090541	11.48708108	7228.099432
134	27.43977477	29.52605856	2.0862838	10.84867568	7238.948108
135	27.60990991	29.57342342	1.9635135	10.21027027	7249.158378
136	27.78004505	29.62078829	1.8407432	9.571864865	7258.730243
137	27.95018018	29.66815315	1.717973	8.933459459	7267.663703
138	28.12031532	29.71551802	1.5952027	8.295054054	7275.958757
139	28.29045045	29.76288288	1.4724324	7.656648649	7283.615405
140	28.46058559	29.81024775	1.3496622	7.018243243	7290.633649
141	28.63072072	29.85761261	1.2268919	6.379837838	7297.013486
142	28.80085586	29.90497748	1.1041216	5.741432432	7302.754919
143	28.97099099	29.95234234	0.9813514	5.103027027	7307.857946
144	29.14112613	29.99970721	0.8585811	4.464621622	7312.322568
145	29.31126126	30.04707207	0.7358108	3.826216216	7316.148784
146	29.4813964	30.09443694	0.6130405	3.187810811	7319.336595
147	29.65153153	30.1418018	0.4902703	2.549405405	7321.886
148	29.82166667	30.18916667	0.3675	1.911	7323.797
149	29.9918018	30.23653153	0.2447297	1.272594595	7325.069595
150	30.16193694	30.2838964	0.1219595	0.634189189	7325.703784
151	30.33207207	30.33126126	-0.000811	-0.004216216	7325.699568
152	30.50220721	30.37862613	-0.123581	-0.642621622	7325.056946
153	30.67234234	30.42599099	-0.246351	-1.281027027	7323.775919
154	30.84247748	30.47335586	-0.369122	-1.919432432	7321.856486
155	31.01261261	30.52072072	-0.491892	-2.557837838	7319.298649
156	31.18274775	30.56808559	-0.614662	-3.196243243	7316.102405
157	31.35288288	30.61545045	-0.737432	-3.834648649	7312.267757
158	31.52301802	30.66281532	-0.860203	-4.473054054	7307.794703
159	31.69315315	30.71018018	-0.982973	-5.111459459	7302.683243
160	31.86328829	30.75754505	-1.105743	-5.749864865	7296.933378
161	32.03342342	30.80490991	-1.228514	-6.38827027	7290.545108
162	32.20355856	30.85227477	-1.351284	-7.026675676	7283.518432
163	32.37369369	30.89963964	-1.474054	-7.665081081	7275.853351
164	32.54382883	30.9470045	-1.596824	-8.303486486	7267.549865
165	32.71396396	30.99436937	-1.719595	-8.941891892	7258.607973
166	32.8840991	31.04173423	-1.842365	-9.580297297	7249.027676
167	33.05423423	31.0890991	-1.965135	-10.2187027	7238.808973
168	33.22436937	31.13646396	-2.087905	-10.85710811	7227.951865
169	33.3945045	31.18382883	-2.210676	-11.49551351	7216.456351
170	33.56463964	31.23119369	-2.333446	-12.13391892	7204.322432
171	33.73477477	31.27855856	-2.456216	-12.77232432	7191.550108
172	33.90490991	31.32592342	-2.578986	-13.41072973	7178.139378
173	34.07504505	31.37328829	-2.701757	-14.04913514	7164.090243

174	34.24518018	31.42065315	-2.824527	-14.68754054	7149.402703
175	34.41531532	31.46801802	-2.947297	-15.32594595	7134.076757
176	34.58545045	31.51538288	-3.070068	-15.96435135	7118.112405
177	34.75558559	31.56274775	-3.192838	-16.60275676	7101.509649
178	34.92572072	31.61011261	-3.315608	-17.24116216	7084.268486
179	35.09585586	31.65747748	-3.438378	-17.87956757	7066.388919
180	35.26599099	31.70484234	-3.561149	-18.51797297	7047.870946
181	35.43612613	31.75220721	-3.683919	-19.15637838	7028.714568
182	35.60626126	31.79957207	-3.806689	-19.79478378	7008.919784
183	35.7763964	31.84693694	-3.929459	-20.43318919	6988.486595
184	35.94653153	31.8943018	-4.05223	-21.07159459	6967.415
185	36.11666667	31.94166667	-4.175	-21.71	6945.705

Fourth warming instance

Time	Bag Temperatur	Take-up Plate T _c	Delta_T	Energy_transfer	Cumulative_energy_transfer
0	4.604166667	32.54583333	27.94166667	145.2966667	145.2966667
1	4.806026114	32.55105619	27.74503008	144.2741564	289.5708231
2	4.976161249	32.59842106	27.62225981	143.635751	433.2065741
3	5.146296385	32.64578592	27.49948954	142.9973456	576.2039197
4	5.31643152	32.69315079	27.37671927	142.3589402	718.5628599
5	5.486566655	32.74051565	27.253949	141.7205348	860.2833947
6	5.65670179	32.78788052	27.13117873	141.0821294	1001.365524
7	5.826836925	32.83524538	27.00840846	140.443724	1141.809248
8	5.99697206	32.88261025	26.88563819	139.8053186	1281.614567
9	6.167107195	32.92997511	26.76286792	139.1669132	1420.78148
10	6.337242331	32.97733998	26.64009765	138.5285078	1559.309988
11	6.507377466	33.02470484	26.51732738	137.8901024	1697.20009
12	6.677512601	33.07206971	26.39455711	137.251697	1834.451787
13	6.847647736	33.11943457	26.27178684	136.6132915	1971.065078
14	7.017782871	33.16679944	26.14901657	135.9748861	2107.039965
15	7.187918006	33.2141643	26.0262463	135.3364807	2242.376445
16	7.358053141	33.26152917	25.90347603	134.6980753	2377.074521
17	7.528188276	33.30889403	25.78070575	134.0596699	2511.134191
18	7.698323412	33.3562589	25.65793548	133.4212645	2644.555455
19	7.868458547	33.40362376	25.53516521	132.7828591	2777.338314
20	8.038593682	33.45098863	25.41239494	132.1444537	2909.482768
21	8.208728817	33.49835349	25.28962467	131.5060483	3040.988816
22	8.378863952	33.54571836	25.1668544	130.8676429	3171.856459
23	8.548999087	33.59308322	25.04408413	130.2292375	3302.085697
24	8.719134222	33.64044809	24.92131386	129.5908321	3431.676529
25	8.889269358	33.68781295	24.79854359	128.9524267	3560.628955
26	9.059404493	33.73517782	24.67577332	128.3140213	3688.942977
27	9.229539628	33.78254268	24.55300305	127.6756159	3816.618593
28	9.399674763	33.82990754	24.43023278	127.0372105	3943.655803
29	9.569809898	33.87727241	24.30746251	126.3988051	4070.054608
30	9.739945033	33.92463727	24.18469224	125.7603997	4195.815008
31	9.910080168	33.97200214	24.06192197	125.1219943	4320.937002
32	10.0802153	34.019367	23.9391517	124.4835888	4445.420591
33	10.25035044	34.06673187	23.81638143	123.8451834	4569.265774
34	10.42048557	34.11409673	23.69361116	123.206778	4692.472552
35	10.59062071	34.1614616	23.57084089	122.5683726	4815.040925
36	10.76075584	34.20882646	23.44807062	121.9299672	4936.970892
37	10.93089098	34.25619133	23.32530035	121.2915618	5058.262454
38	11.10102611	34.30355619	23.20253008	120.6531564	5178.91561
39	11.27116125	34.35092106	23.07975981	120.014751	5298.930361
40	11.44129638	34.39828592	22.95698954	119.3763456	5418.306707
41	11.61143152	34.44565079	22.83421927	118.7379402	5537.044647
42	11.78156665	34.49301565	22.711449	118.0995348	5655.144182
43	11.95170179	34.54038052	22.58867873	117.4611294	5772.605311
44	12.12183693	34.58774538	22.46590846	116.822724	5889.428035
45	12.29197206	34.63511025	22.34313819	116.1843186	6005.612354
46	12.4621072	34.68247511	22.22036792	115.5459132	6121.158267
47	12.63224233	34.72983998	22.09759765	114.9075078	6236.065775
48	12.80237747	34.77720484	21.97482738	114.2691024	6350.334877
49	12.9725126	34.82456971	21.85205711	113.630697	6463.965574
50	13.14264774	34.87193457	21.72928684	112.9922915	6576.957866
51	13.31278287	34.91929944	21.60651657	112.3538861	6689.311752
52	13.48291801	34.9666643	21.4837463	111.7154807	6801.027233
53	13.65305314	35.01402917	21.36097603	111.0770753	6912.104308
54	13.82318828	35.06139403	21.23820575	110.4386699	7022.542978
55	13.99332341	35.1087589	21.11543548	109.8002645	7132.343242

56	14.16345855	35.15612376	20.99266521	109.1618591	7241.505101
57	14.33359368	35.20348863	20.86989494	108.5234537	7350.028555
58	14.50372882	35.25085349	20.74712467	107.8850483	7457.913603
59	14.67386395	35.29821836	20.6243544	107.2466429	7565.160246
60	14.84399909	35.34558322	20.50158413	106.6082375	7671.768484
61	15.01413422	35.39294809	20.37881386	105.9698321	7777.738316
62	15.18426936	35.44031295	20.25604359	105.3314267	7883.069743
63	15.35440449	35.48767782	20.13327332	104.6930213	7987.762764
64	15.52453963	35.53504268	20.01050305	104.0546159	8091.81738
65	15.69467476	35.58240754	19.88773278	103.4162105	8195.23359
66	15.8648099	35.62977241	19.76496251	102.7778051	8298.011395
67	16.03494503	35.67713727	19.64219224	102.1393997	8400.150795
68	16.20508017	35.72450214	19.51942197	101.5009943	8501.651789
69	16.3752153	35.771867	19.3966517	100.8625888	8602.514378
70	16.54535044	35.81923187	19.27388143	100.2241834	8702.738561
71	16.71548557	35.86659673	19.15111116	99.58577803	8802.32434
72	16.88562071	35.9139616	19.02834089	98.94737263	8901.271712
73	17.05575584	35.96132646	18.90557062	98.30896722	8999.580679
74	17.22589098	36.00869133	18.78280035	97.67056182	9097.251241
75	17.39602611	36.05605619	18.66003008	97.03215641	9194.283398
76	17.56616125	36.10342106	18.53725981	96.39375101	9290.677149
77	17.73629638	36.15078592	18.41448954	95.7553456	9386.432494
78	17.90643152	36.19815079	18.29171927	95.1169402	9481.549434
79	18.07656665	36.24551565	18.168949	94.47853479	9576.027969
80	18.24670179	36.29288052	18.04617873	93.84012939	9669.868099
81	18.41683693	36.34024538	17.92340846	93.20172398	9763.069823
82	18.58697206	36.38761025	17.80063819	92.56331857	9855.633141
83	18.7571072	36.43497511	17.67786792	91.92491317	9947.558054
84	18.92724233	36.48233998	17.55509765	91.28650776	10038.84456
85	19.09737747	36.52970484	17.43232738	90.64810236	10129.49266
86	19.2675126	36.57706971	17.30955711	90.00969695	10219.50236
87	19.43764774	36.62443457	17.18678684	89.37129155	10308.87365
88	19.60778287	36.67179944	17.06401657	88.73288614	10397.60654
89	19.77791801	36.7191643	16.9412463	88.09448074	10485.70102
90	19.94805314	36.76652917	16.81847603	87.45607533	10573.1571
91	20.11818828	36.81389403	16.69570575	86.81766993	10659.97477
92	20.28832341	36.8612589	16.57293548	86.17926452	10746.15403
93	20.45845855	36.90862376	16.45016521	85.54085912	10831.69489
94	20.62859368	36.95598863	16.32739494	84.90245371	10916.59734
95	20.79872882	37.00335349	16.20462467	84.2640483	11000.86139
96	20.96886395	37.05071836	16.0818544	83.6256429	11084.48703
97	21.13899909	37.09808322	15.95908413	82.98723749	11167.47427
98	21.30913422	37.14544809	15.83631386	82.34883209	11249.8231
99	21.47926936	37.19281295	15.71354359	81.71042668	11331.53353
100	21.64940449	37.24017782	15.59077332	81.07202128	11412.60555
101	21.81953963	37.28754268	15.46800305	80.43361587	11493.03917
102	21.98967476	37.33490754	15.34523278	79.79521047	11572.83438
103	22.1598099	37.38227241	15.22246251	79.15680506	11651.99118
104	22.32994503	37.42963727	15.09969224	78.51839966	11730.50958
105	22.50008017	37.47700214	14.97692197	77.87999425	11808.38958
106	22.6702153	37.524367	14.8541517	77.24158884	11885.63117
107	22.84035044	37.57173187	14.73138143	76.60318344	11962.23435
108	23.01048557	37.61909673	14.60861116	75.96477803	12038.19913
109	23.18062071	37.6664616	14.48584089	75.32637263	12113.5255
110	23.35075584	37.71382646	14.36307062	74.68796722	12188.21347
111	23.52089098	37.76119133	14.24030035	74.04956182	12262.26303
112	23.69102611	37.80855619	14.11753008	73.41115641	12335.67418
113	23.86116125	37.85592106	13.99475981	72.77275101	12408.44694
114	24.03129638	37.90328592	13.87198954	72.1343456	12480.58128

115	24.20143152	37.95065079	13.74921927	71.4959402	12552.07722
116	24.37156665	37.99801565	13.626449	70.85753479	12622.93476
117	24.54170179	38.04538052	13.50367873	70.21912939	12693.15389
118	24.71183693	38.09274538	13.38090846	69.58072398	12762.73461
119	24.88197206	38.14011025	13.25813819	68.94231857	12831.67693
120	25.0521072	38.18747511	13.13536792	68.30391317	12899.98084
121	25.22224233	38.23483998	13.01259765	67.66550776	12967.64635
122	25.39237747	38.28220484	12.88982738	67.02710236	13034.67345
123	25.5625126	38.32956971	12.76705711	66.38869695	13101.06215
124	25.73264774	38.37693457	12.64428684	65.75029155	13166.81244
125	25.90278287	38.42429944	12.52151657	65.11188614	13231.92433
126	26.07291801	38.4716643	12.3987463	64.47348074	13296.39781
127	26.24305314	38.51902917	12.27597603	63.83507533	13360.23288
128	26.41318828	38.56639403	12.15320575	63.19666993	13423.42955
129	26.58332341	38.6137589	12.03043548	62.55826452	13485.98782
130	26.75345855	38.66112376	11.90766521	61.91985912	13547.90768
131	26.92359368	38.70848863	11.78489494	61.28145371	13609.18913
132	27.09372882	38.75585349	11.66212467	60.6430483	13669.83218
133	27.26386395	38.80321836	11.5393544	60.0046429	13729.83682
134	27.43399909	38.85058322	11.41658413	59.36623749	13789.20306
135	27.60413422	38.89794809	11.29381386	58.72783209	13847.93089
136	27.77426936	38.94531295	11.17104359	58.08942668	13906.02032
137	27.94440449	38.99267782	11.04827332	57.45102128	13963.47134
138	28.11453963	39.04004268	10.92550305	56.81261587	14020.28395
139	28.28467476	39.08740754	10.80273278	56.17421047	14076.45816
140	28.4548099	39.13477241	10.67996251	55.53580506	14131.99397
141	28.62494503	39.18213727	10.55719224	54.89739966	14186.89137
142	28.79508017	39.22950214	10.43442197	54.25899425	14241.15036
143	28.9652153	39.276867	10.3116517	53.62058884	14294.77095
144	29.13535044	39.32423187	10.18888143	52.98218344	14347.75314
145	29.30548557	39.37159673	10.06611116	52.34377803	14400.09691
146	29.47562071	39.4189616	9.94334089	51.70537263	14451.80229
147	29.64575584	39.46632646	9.82057062	51.06696722	14502.86925
148	29.81589098	39.51369133	9.69780035	50.42856182	14553.29782
149	29.98602611	39.56105619	9.575030079	49.79015641	14603.08797
150	30.15616125	39.60842106	9.452259809	49.15175101	14652.23972
151	30.32629638	39.65578592	9.329489539	48.5133456	14700.75307
152	30.49643152	39.70315079	9.206719268	47.8749402	14748.62801

Appendix E: Supplementary Tables

Tests of Normality (Shapiro-Wilk Test)			
	Warming Sequence No	df	Sig.
Effective Power	1	24	0.609
	2	24	0.884
	3	24	0.743
	4	24	0.177

(Table 1: Normality testing for effective power output data when groups according to position within the batch of warming instances)

Comparison between means for effective power output according to bag ID (ANOVA)						
Dependent Variable: Effective Power Output (W) (Bonferroni method)						
Bag ID (I)	Comparison group (J)	Mean Difference (I-J)	Std. Error	Significance*	95% Confidence Interval	
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound
1	2	1.05167	3.44414	1.000	-8.2355	10.3388
	3	-3.87458	3.44414	1.000	-13.1617	5.4125
	4	-4.46125	3.44414	1.000	-13.7484	4.8259
2	1	-1.05167	3.44414	1.000	-10.3388	8.2355
	3	-4.92625	3.44414	0.936	-14.2134	4.3609
	4	-5.51292	3.44414	0.677	-14.8000	3.7742
3	1	3.87458	3.44414	1.000	-5.4125	13.1617
	2	4.92625	3.44414	0.936	-4.3609	14.2134
	4	-0.58667	3.44414	1.000	-9.8738	8.7005
4	1	4.46125	3.44414	1.000	-4.8259	13.7484
	2	5.51292	3.44414	0.677	-3.7742	14.8000
	3	0.58667	3.44414	1.000	-8.7005	9.8738

* The mean difference is significant at the 0.05 level

(Table 2: Results of a one-way ANOVA in which effective power output observed for each of the four physical bags, regardless of position within a warming series, was the factor; p-value > 0.05 reveals no significant differences between the four bags of simulated blood prepared for use in this study)

Description of effective power output data				
		Statistic	Std. Error	
Effective Power (W)	Mean	172.0423	1.22304	
	95% Confidence Interval for Mean	Lower Bound	169.6143	
		Upper Bound	174.4703	
	5% Trimmed Mean	172.5066		
	Median	176.9600		
	Variance	143.599		
	Std. Deviation	11.98327		
	Minimum	146.29		
	Maximum	192.59		
	Range	46.30		
	Interquartile Range	16.72		
	Skewness	-0.836	0.246	
	Kurtosis	-0.631	0.488	

(Table 3: Table demonstrating characteristics of all the data collected)

Mean effective power output according to warming sequence			
Effective Power (W)			
Warming Sequence No	Mean Effective Power (W)	N	Std. Deviation
1	153.1075	24	4.12033
2	174.2892	24	4.42765
3	179.1663	24	3.65489
4	181.6063	24	3.92434
Total	172.0423	96	11.98327

(Table 4: Table contrasting the effective power output observed for each position within the batches of warming instances)

**Comparison between means for effective power output according to warming sequence number
(RM-ANOVA)**

Dependent Factor: Effective Power Output (W)
(Bonferroni method)

Warming Sequence No (I)	Comparison group (J)	Mean Difference (I-J)	Std. Error	Significance*	95% Confidence Interval	
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound
1	2	-21.18167*	1.16672	< 0.001	-24.32774	-18.03559
	3	-26.05875*	1.16672	< 0.001	-29.20483	-22.91267
	4	-28.49875*	1.16672	< 0.001	-31.64483	-25.35267
2	1	21.18167*	1.16672	< 0.001	18.03559	24.32774
	3	-4.87708*	1.16672	< 0.001	-8.02316	-1.73101
	4	-7.31708*	1.16672	< 0.001	-10.46316	-4.17101
3	1	26.05875*	1.16672	< 0.001	22.91267	29.20483
	2	4.87708*	1.16672	0.00040	1.73101	8.02316
	4	-2.44000	1.16672	0.23553	-5.58608	0.70608
4	1	28.49875*	1.16672	< 0.001	25.35267	31.64483
	2	7.31708*	1.16672	< 0.001	4.17101	10.46316
	3	2.44000	1.16672	0.23553	-0.70608	5.58608

* The mean difference is significant at the 0.05 level

(Table 5: Results of RM-ANOVA which demonstrates the degree of statistical significance for the difference between the effective power outputs observed for each position within the batches of warming instances)

**Comparison between means for take-up plate start-temperature according to warming sequence number
(RM-ANOVA)**

Dependent Variable: Take-Up Plate Start-Temperature (°C)
(Bonferroni method)

Warming Sequence No (I)	Comparison group (J)	Mean Difference (I-J)	Std. Error	Significance*	95% Confidence Interval	
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound
1	2	-7.96667*	0.19458	< 0.001	-8.4913	-7.4420
	3	-9.06250*	0.19458	< 0.001	-9.5872	-8.5378
	4	-9.36667*	0.19458	< 0.001	-9.8913	-8.8420
2	1	7.96667*	0.19458	< 0.001	7.4420	8.4913
	3	-1.09583*	0.19458	< 0.001	-1.6205	-0.5712
	4	-1.40000*	0.19458	< 0.001	-1.9247	-0.8753
3	1	9.06250*	0.19458	< 0.001	8.5378	9.5872
	2	1.09583*	0.19458	< 0.001	0.5712	1.6205
	4	-0.30417	0.19458	0.729	-0.8288	0.2205
4	1	9.36667*	0.19458	< 0.001	8.8420	9.8913
	2	1.40000*	0.19458	< 0.001	0.8753	1.9247
	3	0.30417	0.19458	0.729	-0.2205	0.8288

* The mean difference is significant at the 0.05 level

(Table 6: Results of RM-ANOVA which demonstrates the degree of statistical significance for the difference between the mean take-up plate start-temperatures observed for each position within the batches of warming instances)

**Comparison between means for bag end-temperature according to warming sequence number
(RM-ANOVA)**

Dependent Variable: Bag End-Temperature (°C)
(Bonferroni method)

Warming Sequence No (I)	Comparison group (J)	Mean Difference (I-J)	Std. Error	Significance*	95% Confidence Interval	
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound
1	2	.39583*	0.12364	0.011	0.0625	0.7292
	3	.62917*	0.12364	< 0.001	0.2958	0.9625
	4	.75417*	0.12364	< 0.001	0.4208	1.0875
2	1	-.39583*	0.12364	0.011	-0.7292	-0.0625
	3	0.23333	0.12364	0.374	-0.1000	0.5667
	4	.35833*	0.12364	0.028	0.0250	0.6917
3	1	-.62917*	0.12364	< 0.001	-0.9625	-0.2958
	2	-0.23333	0.12364	0.374	-0.5667	0.1000
	4	0.12500	0.12364	1.000	-0.2084	0.4584
4	1	-.75417*	0.12364	< 0.001	-1.0875	-0.4208
	2	-.35833*	0.12364	0.028	-0.6917	-0.0250
	3	-0.12500	0.12364	1.000	-0.4584	0.2084

* The mean difference is significant at the 0.05 level

(Table 7: Results of RM-ANOVA which demonstrates the degree of statistical significance for the difference between the bag end-temperatures observed for each position within the batches of warming instances)

**Comparison between means for warming cycle duration according to warming sequence number
(RM-ANOVA)**

Dependent Variable: Warming Cycle Duration (s)
(Bonferroni method)

Warming Sequence No (I)	Comparison group (J)	Mean Difference (I-J)	Std. Error	Significance*	95% Confidence Interval	
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound
1	2	24.70833	1.45884	< 0.001	20.7746	28.6421
	3	30.04167	1.45884	< 0.001	26.1079	33.9754
	4	32.62500	1.45884	< 0.001	28.6912	36.5588
2	1	-24.70833	1.45884	< 0.001	-28.6421	-20.7746
	3	5.33333	1.45884	0.003	1.3996	9.2671
	4	7.91667	1.45884	< 0.001	3.9829	11.8504
3	1	-30.04167	1.45884	< 0.001	-33.9754	-26.1079
	2	-5.33333	1.45884	0.003	-9.2671	-1.3996
	4	2.58333	1.45884	0.479	-1.3504	6.5171
4	1	-32.62500	1.45884	< 0.001	-36.5588	-28.6912
	2	-7.91667	1.45884	< 0.001	-11.8504	-3.9829
	3	-2.58333	1.45884	0.479	-6.5171	1.3504

* The mean difference is significant at the 0.05 level

(Table 8: Results of RM-ANOVA which demonstrates the degree of statistical significance for the difference between the warming cycle duration observed for each position within the batches of warming instances)

**Comparison between total energy added according to warming sequence number
(RM-ANOVA)**

Dependent Variable: Total Energy Added (J)
(Bonferroni method)

Warming Sequence No (I)	Comparison group (J)	Mean Difference (I-J)	Std. Error	Significance*	95% Confidence Interval	
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound
1	2	172.34167	142.84815	1.000	-212.8488	557.5321
	3	295.98333	142.84815	0.246	-89.2071	681.1738
	4	176.07917	142.84815	1.000	-209.1113	561.2696
2	1	-172.34167	142.84815	1.000	-557.5321	212.8488
	3	123.64167	142.84815	1.000	-261.5488	508.8321
	4	3.73750	142.84815	1.000	-381.4529	388.9279
3	1	-295.98333	142.84815	0.246	-681.1738	89.2071
	2	-123.64167	142.84815	1.000	-508.8321	261.5488
	4	-119.90417	142.84815	1.000	-505.0946	265.2863
4	1	-176.07917	142.84815	1.000	-561.2696	209.1113
	2	-3.73750	142.84815	1.000	-388.9279	381.4529
	3	119.90417	142.84815	1.000	-265.2863	505.0946

* The mean difference is significant at the 0.05 level

(Table 9: Results of RM-ANOVA which demonstrates the degree of statistical significance for the difference between the total energy added observed for each position within the batches of warming instances)