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## Disposable Tocodynamometer Measures Uterine Contractions



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Clinical Innovations' (Salt Lake City, UT, USA) Koala® Toco, the first and only tocodynamometer to use air-charged technology to accurately measure uterine contractions, has been approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The tocodynamometer has no electronic components, making it lightweight and more comfortable for the patient.

Placed externally over the fundal area of the uterus, Koala® Toco provides enhanced signal acquisition, easier-to-visualise tracings, and a better overall monitoring experience. Koala® Toco is based on advanced signal amplification technology, which is designed to improve performance particularly in traditionally difficult-to-monitor patients such as those with high body mass index (BMI), the manufacturer explained.

### An Effective Tool in Infection Control

In addition, Koala® Toco was designed to be disposable, making it more convenient and an effective tool in infection control. Research findings have highlighted the importance of infection control. "On any given day, about one in 25 hospital patients has at least one healthcare-associated infection," according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

"I've already noticed the difference Koala Toco has made. It works better on our difficult patients and is more comfortable for our moms. It's also convenient to have new, clean tocos readily available," said Mic Zywiec, RN, nurse manager at Valley View Hospital in Glenwood Springs, Colorado.

"Koala Toco is a simple and yet important innovation for clinicians and the thousands of pregnant women monitored daily. We are proud to make it easier for healthcare providers to help their patients deliver healthy babies," said Jeff Bradford, Vice President of Global Marketing at Clinical Innovations.

A tocodynamometer is a device for monitoring and recording uterine contractions before and during labour. It consists of a pressure transducer that is placed over the fundus area of the uterus using a belt, and then records the duration of contractions and the intervals between them on a monitor or on graph paper.

### Another Koala Product for Intrapartum Pressure Monitoring

Koala® Toco's sensitivity is controlled by a HI/LO button placed on the reusable cable, which connects the tocodynamometer to a foetal monitor, the manufacturer said. The same cable can also be used, if necessary, with the Koala intrauterine pressure catheter (IUPC) for intrapartum pressure monitoring; the cable is simply disconnected from one device and connected to the other. Koala IUPC has also been approved by the FDA, Clinical Innovations said.

"Clinical Innovations is committed to developing and commercialising innovative technologies to solve challenges in obstetrics," Bradford added. The company, a member of the Pritzker Group, is the largest healthcare manufacturer exclusively focused on labour and delivery.

Source: HospiMedica.com  
Image Credit: Clinical Innovations

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