

ASTRO INSTRUMENTATION, LLC AND IMMUNICON CORPORATION TEAM UP TO PROVIDE AUTOMATED BREAKTHROUGH SYSTEM FOR CANCER DETECTION

Quick Disconnects Ensure Accuracy and Limit Exposure to Chemicals

“Use of the CPC connection not only prevents air bubbles and leaks in our fluidic system, which can affect the accuracy of lab results, but it also allows easier access and handling of fluid lines by the operator.”

—Michael Kagan,
vice president of operations,
Immunicon Corporation

OPPORTUNITY

CAT scans are commonly used to measure tumors in patients battling cancer. Because they detect only fairly large changes in tumor size, CAT scans limit a doctor's ability to evaluate day-to-day responses to treatment. A new automated diagnostic device, the CellTracks® system, uses a sophisticated cell isolation process to continually monitor tumor cell growth. The system helps oncologists evaluate incremental tumor growth more frequently and accurately adjust treatment accordingly.

While collaborating on the CellTracks design, Astro Instrumentation, a designer of electromechanical devices and Immunicon Corporation, a bioscience company, needed a system that limits operator exposure to chemicals and delivers dependable, accurate results. The companies turned to CPC, for a component solution to its bulk fluid module.

SOLUTION

CPC provided polypropylene quick disconnect couplings for the system's bulk fluid module, which connects to a waste, buffer and cleaning solution. A valved panel mount body was mounted on each bottle cap, providing a closed system. The mating insert has a 90° elbow, creating a clean, integrated look. When each bottle needs to be changed or replaced, CPC couplings help users quickly connect and disconnect the module with one hand, resulting in simplified servicing and faster maintenance of the system. Leak-free CPC couplings with integral shutoff valves also limit exposure of medical technologists to harsh cleaning chemicals.

The precise control of the waste and buffer supply afforded by the quick disconnect couplings is vital to the system's ability to isolate circulating tumor cells and determine a correct cell count. The unique design of the couplings minimizes the formation of air bubbles in the reagent lines, which could affect the accuracy of reagent delivery and system results.

RESULTS

Using CPC quick disconnect couplings in the CellTracks AutoPrep system enabled Astro and Immunicon Corporation to design a bulk fluid system that is dependable, accurate and easy-to-use. The leak-free couplings also eliminated waste and messy clean-up, limiting chemical exposure for users.



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