

## **Figure captions**

**Figure 1.** Mean time for performing all the tests on all the ventilators by physicians (grey columns) and the technician (white column). There were no significant differences between physicians, but all "physician" times were significantly longer than the "technician" time ( $p = 0.001$  or less).

**Figure 2.** Timing results for test 1 (startup). The x-axis represents the 11 ventilators tested; the y-axis, the time required to successfully perform the test (in seconds); the z-axis, the technician times on the first line and those of the physicians on the following lines. Thus each column corresponds to the time taken by a physician tested on a ventilator.

**Figure 3.** Timing results for test 2 (unlocking). The x-axis represents the 11 ventilators tested; the y-axis, the time required to successfully perform the test (in seconds); the z-axis, the technician times on the first line and those of the physicians on the following lines. Thus each column corresponds to the time taken by a physician tested on a ventilator.

**Figure 4.** Timing results for test 3 (recognition). The x-axis represents the 11 ventilators tested; the y-axis, the time required to successfully perform the test (in seconds); the z-axis, the technician times on the first line and those of the physicians on the following lines. Thus each column corresponds to the time taken by a physician tested on a ventilator.

**Figure 5.** Results of test #3 recognition of modes and settings.

**Figure 6.** Timing results for test 4 (mode change). The x-axis represents the ventilators tested; the corresponding function are absent in the other ones; the y-axis, the time required to successfully perform the test (in seconds); the z-axis, the technician times on the first line and those of the physicians on the following lines. Thus each column corresponds to the time taken by a physician tested on a ventilator.

**Figure 7.** Timing results for test 5 (pressure setting). The x-axis represents the ventilators tested; the corresponding function are absent in the other ones; the y-axis, the time required to successfully perform the test (in seconds); the z-axis, the

technician times on the first line and those of the physicians on the following lines. Thus each column corresponds to the time taken by a physician tested on a ventilator.

**Figure 8.** Timing results for test 6 (alarms). The x-axis represents the ventilators tested; the corresponding function are absent in the other ones; the y-axis, the time required to successfully perform the test (in seconds); the z-axis, the technician times on the first line and those of the physicians on the following lines. Thus each column corresponds to the time taken by a physician tested on a ventilator.