

APAGBI SURVEY AND AUDIT SUB-COMMITTEE

Template Report for Surveys of the APA Membership

Survey Title:

The Difficult Airway Trolley in Paediatric Anaesthesia: An International Survey of Experience and Training

Survey Authors:

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Brief Description of Purpose:

This study aimed to investigate paediatric anaesthetists' knowledge, experience and confidence with the DAT and highlight areas where clinical practice could be improved upon.

Category of Membership Surveyed:

All members of the Association of Paediatric Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland (APAGBI), European Society for Paediatric Anaesthesiology (ESPA) and their national societies, Canadian Pediatric Anesthesia Society (CPAS) and Society for Paediatric Anaesthesia in New Zealand and Australia (SPANZA) were invited to complete an online survey.

Dates of Survey:

January - April 2011

Number of Responses:

693 anaesthetists replied to the questionnaire. Approximately 230 of these were APA members. 548 (79%) were consultants.

Outline Findings of Survey:

Six hundred and thirty three anaesthetists (92%) reported that they have a DAT in their theatre suite, with 587 (98%) being aware of its location. There was disparity between the desirability of equipment for inclusion on the DAT and anaesthetists' confidence (Figure 1a & 1b). For example, whilst 93% of anaesthetists regard a cricothyroidotomy kit as 'essential', only 18% are confident in its use. A surgical cricothyroidotomy kit was regarded as essential by 84%, with only 15% being confident in its use.

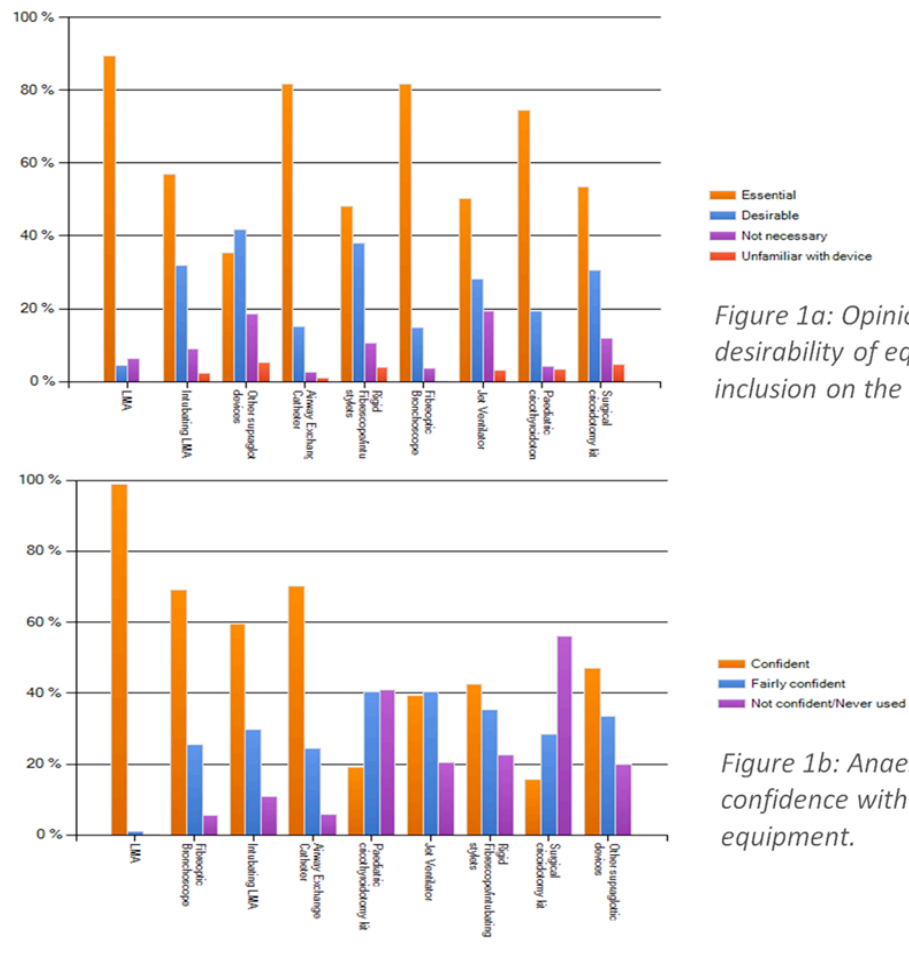


Figure 1a: Opinions on desirability of equipment for inclusion on the DAT.

Figure 1b: Anaesthetists' confidence with airway equipment.

Three hundred and eighty seven (56%) anaesthetists received formal training on the DAT. Frequency of training on the DAT varied (Figure 2). The lowest training levels were observed in Australia and UK at 42% and 59% respectively ($p=0.01$). Three hundred and forty six (58%) anaesthetists were confident or very confident that they know the contents of the DAT. Those who had received training were more likely to be confident or very confident in knowing the DAT contents ($r=-0.321$, $p=0.01$).

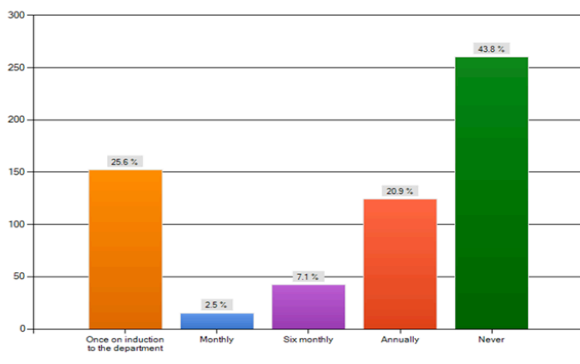
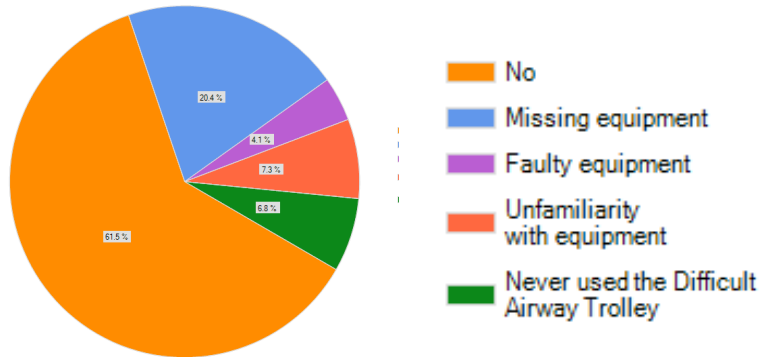


Figure 2: Frequency of DAT training.

Three hundred and fifty five (59%) anaesthetists had used the DAT in the last 6 months, 82 (14%) in the last 6-12 months, 91 (15%) > 1 year ago and 72 (12%) had never used the DAT. Frequency of DAT use correlated moderately with higher confidence levels ($r=-0.398$, $p=0.01$). One hundred and eighty three (31%) reported having experienced a problem with the DAT (Figure 3).



Three hundred and sixty four anaesthetists (60%) deemed it their responsibility to ensure familiarity with the DAT contents, with 227 (38%) regarding it as the responsibility of their department and 12 (2%) the hospital's responsibility.

Conclusions

Paediatric anaesthetists' DAT training could be improved upon. A significant number of problems with the DAT were reported, highlighting the need for DAT standardisation and maintenance.

Intended Publication/Presentation:

Poster presentation at Difficult Airway Society meeting, Nottingham, 2011.

Oral presentation (Winner of Best Oral Presentation), SPANZA, Coolum, Australia, 2011.

Planned submission to Pediatric Anesthesia.

Follow up Actions Required:

N/A

Other Comments:

The authors would like to thank the APA for their support of this survey and thank members for participating.

Date Submitted to Survey Lead: 11/11/11

Submitted by: Alyson Calder