

**APAGBI SURVEY AND AUDIT SUB-COMMITTEE**

**Template Report for Surveys of the APA Membership**

**Survey Title:** Paediatric Supraglottic Airway Device Survey

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**Brief Description of Purpose:**

Airway management is a key skill of anaesthesia. There is a wide choice of airway equipment available for use in children, but very little evidence to help choose what may be most safe and effective. This is particularly true for SADs with over 50 different SADs commercially available within the UK. To date there have been few studies comparing these devices in children and it is possible that some SADs are found to be unsatisfactory or unsafe. [Ped Anesth 2009; 19:55-65]

Most departments have chosen which device to use through trial and error (as well as cost considerations).

This survey assesses the current use of paediatric SADs for routine practice and difficult airways. The results of this survey will aid future research priorities in the critical area of paediatric airway research.

**Category of Membership Surveyed:** all

**Dates of Survey:** Oct-Nov 2011

**Number of Responses:** 301

**Outline Findings of Survey:**

The choice of a specific supraglottic airway device is most frequently down to personal preference, almost certainly determined by previous experiences. Research evidence to support use of a specific device was surprisingly unimportant. When it came down the ideal properties of a SAD, the biggest priority was the availability of a suitable range of sizes. Accessory features brought in by newer designs appear to be of much less significance than "a good fit."

Despite an ever-increasing number of alternative devices, the original classic shaped LMA is by far and away the preferred device in both elective and emergency situations.

**Conclusion**

There is a wide variation in practice amongst very experienced paediatric anaesthetists. The choices are, however, largely non-evidence based. These devices are felt to be very important when it comes to management of the difficult airway. The popularity of the original design demonstrates the success of Archie Brains' years of attention to detail of original design.

**Intended Publication/Presentation:**

Accepted as a poster presentation for the APAGBI ASM in Birmingham 2012

**Follow up Actions Required:**

**Other Comments:**

**Date Submitted to Survey Lead:** 28/4/12

**Submitted by:** Richard Beringer