

Media Reviews

NTSP

By National Tracheostomy Safety Project

Price: free

Category: Medical

Updated: 24 November 2012

Version: 1.0

Size: 3.9 MB

Languages: English, German, Northern Sami, Spanish

Developer: BOXSAIL LTD.

NTSP App is an interactive diagnostic aid taking the user through the management of tracheostomy emergencies. The National Tracheostomy Safety Project is a joint venture between several stakeholders with multidisciplinary expertise in airway management. The project aims to improve the management of critical incidents related to patients with tracheostomies and those who have undergone a laryngectomy. The app provides easy access to the recommendations of the NTSP. The recommendations are designed to be used by first responders and provide a universal approach to managing this specific set of emergencies.

The home screen (Fig. 1) is clearly laid out and makes navigation straightforward. There are 9 options to choose from and you can return to the home screen at any time with one click.

The first option from the home screen (emergency algorithms) leads to a choice between interactive or static algorithms. Under either option the responder is prompted to remember the importance of identifying the patient with a patent airway or with a laryngectomy. The static algorithm presents the steps in the format of a laminated flow chart. Fitting on one screen and with the option to pinch zoom it provides an excellent quick reference. The interactive option provides a step-by-step approach asking a series of questions steering the responder down the appropriate arm of the algorithm. At each stage is the option to watch a video demonstration, enhancing the app's appeal as an educational resource.



Figure 1 NTSP home screen. Reproduced with permission.

For the clinician the remaining options provide a rich resource of video and static information. These include copies of suggested bed head signs to make responders aware of the tracheostomy and its purpose. The Intensive Care Society's standards and St George's guide are available for further reference. Furthermore there is the functionality to book on a tracheostomy (including train the trainer) course and the option to keep up to date with the latest developments through twitter and RSS feeds.

An insightful option is focused on helping clinicians discuss tracheostomies with patients. Selecting this opens sub-headings aimed at answering the common questions asked by patients and relatives about tracheostomies and laryngectomies. It also provides useful links to further information.

NTSP's app is a highly relevant resource for all first responders and has something for all grades of anaesthetists. The well thought through design allows its real time use in an emergency situation.

Furthermore it provides an excellent educational resource, for personal refreshment or to support any teaching session on tracheostomies and laryngectomies.

Competing interests

None declared.

H. Buckley

ST7 Intensive Care Medicine and Anaesthesia

North Western Deanery, UK

Email: buckleyhugo@gmail.com

doi:10.1111/anae.12327

Handbook of Neuroanaesthesia (Fifth edition)

P. Newfield & J. E. Cottrell

Lippincott Williams and Wilkins, Philadelphia, ISBN 9781605479651, 480 pp., Price £43.00

Neurosurgery has advanced significantly in recent years and, alongside it, so has neuroanaesthesia. There have been dramatic innovations in central nervous system imaging, minimally invasive therapeutic interventions as well as the pharmacology of anaesthesia that have resulted in an increase in the complexity of neurosurgical care. This book aims to offer the neuroanaesthetist, both trainees and those more experienced, a comprehensive and practical guide to the perioperative management of neurosurgical patients.

The overall layout out of the book follows a logical progression; divided into four parts, it begins with general considerations such as neurophysiology before moving on to detailed chapters on specific anaesthetic management. The final part focuses on patients in neuro-intensive care, with newer chapters on information technology and practice guidelines.