Intubation: Can we keep it and keep it safe?

Sophia Dyer, MD
Associate Professor, Dept of Emergency Medicine
Boston University School of Medicine
Medical Director, Boston EMS, Police and Fire

The Laryngoscope: Can we keep it?



The Controversy

- Many studies demonstrating decreased survival in cardiac arrest and in head injury
- What about other conditions?
- For those systems who continue to intubate, how can we make is safer??

What metric should we use?



Is it the number of attempts?

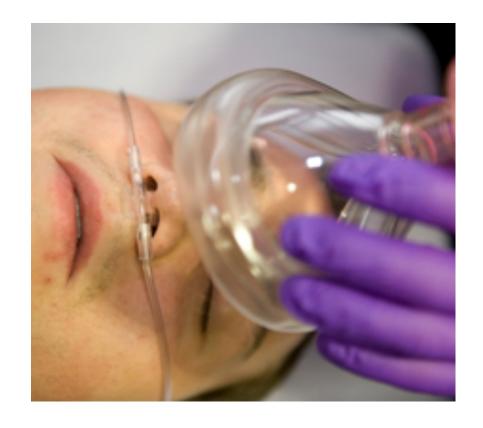


Or is it the hypoxia the patient experiences?



Apneic Oxygenation

- Non-cardiac arrest
- Including RSI
- Team skill with 2 oxygen tanks



Why apneic oxygenation?

- Ramachandran et al.
- Obese, elective surgery patients
- 5.29 min vs 3.4 min to desaturation

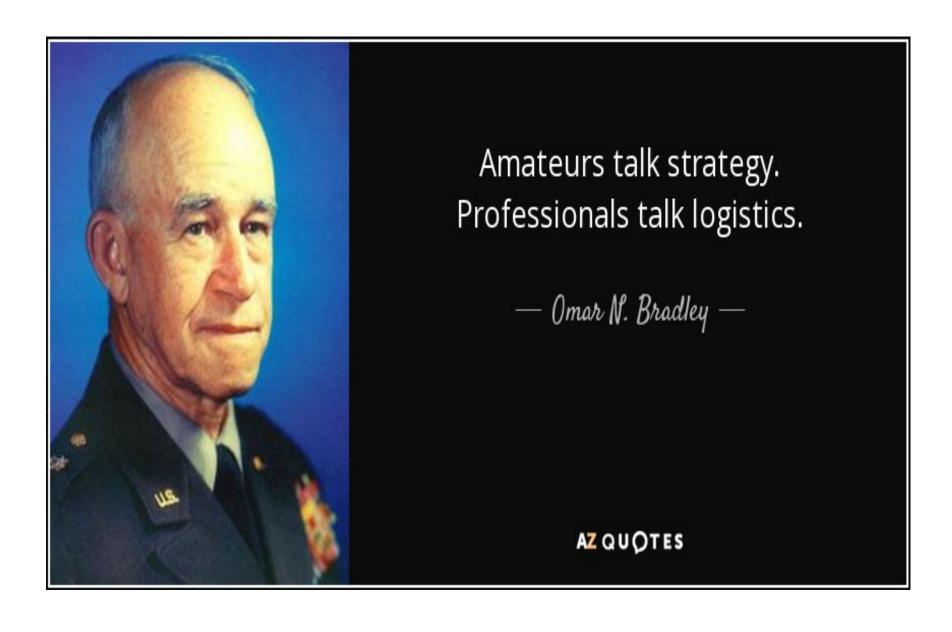
- Taha et al.
- No desaturation in 6 min, with 5L NC
- Control group desat in
 3.65 min

How can we maintain airway pressure?

- Focus on patients already hypoxic
- CHF-Keep pt upright and on CPAP
- Other patients-PEEP Valve
- Combine with Apneic Oxygenation



Airways should be about Logistics!



Thank you

