

Research Study: Current practices and attitudes regarding cricoid pressure use during airway management in Newfoundland and Labrador

To Whom It May Concern,

You have been invited to take part in a research study. Taking part in this study is voluntary. If you decide to take part, you may leave at any time. This will not affect your employment, registration, or licensing status as a physician.

The survey used in this study is anonymous so the results will not be linked back to you. It is intended that only the research team members listed below will have access to the survey responses. It is possible that your completed survey may be identifiable to one of them. If this is the case, your responses will be kept in confidence. The publication of the study results will only include grouped data, not individual survey responses.

1. Introduction and background:

The use of cricoid pressure during rapid sequence induction/intubation has been of much debate in recent years. We are interested in knowing the statistics on its use, as well as knowledge of its technique, by physicians in Newfoundland and Labrador.

2. Purpose of the study:

To assess the current practice patterns surrounding cricoid pressure use during airway management in Newfoundland and Labrador.

3. Description of the study procedures:

If you take part in this study, you will click the link that has been provided, which will direct you to a short survey. Once you have completed the survey, you will be offered the opportunity to enter your e-mail for the chance to win a gift certificate. Your e-mail will not be linked to your survey responses in any way.

4. Length of time:

You will be asked to complete a short survey on one occasion only. This will take about 10 minutes of your time.

5. Possible benefits, risks, or discomforts:

It is not known whether this study will benefit you. The risks associated with this study are minimal but there is a chance that some participants will find the questions upsetting as they recall memories of urgent clinical scenarios that may or may not have resulted in favorable outcomes. If you do not wish to answer a specific question, you may leave it blank. You may also contact the study personnel with any questions or concerns. Finally, should you like to avail of any counselling services (available through the NLMA), please call 1.877.418.2181 24hrs/day or go online at www.myinconfidence.ca (username = NLMA, password = inconfidence).

6. Liability statement:

By completing this survey, you are giving implied consent to be in this study. It tells us that you understand the information about the research study. If you consent to participating in this study, you do not give up your legal rights. Researchers involved in this research study are expected to honour their legal and professional responsibilities.

7. **What about my privacy and confidentiality?**

Protecting your privacy is an important part of this study. Every effort to protect your privacy will be made. However, it cannot be guaranteed.

Please note that we will be utilizing SurveyMonkey to administer this survey, which means that the information you provide will be housed on servers in the United States (as Survey Monkey is an American company). SurveyMonkey and all information collected is therefore subject to US laws, including the US Patriot Act and other legislation in force which permits law enforcement authorities to compel production of the information without notice to users. The anonymity and confidentiality of your data cannot therefore be guaranteed.

However, your name and contact information will not be collected as part of the survey. All returned surveys will be anonymous. As such, your name will not appear in any report or article published as a result of this study, and your responses will not be linked to your e-mail or IP addresses. Information collected for this study will be kept for five years before it is destroyed.

Information collected will be stored on a password-protected device. Dr. Geoff Zbitnew (supervisor) is the person responsible for keeping it secure.

8. **Questions or concerns:**

If you have any questions about taking part in this study, you can meet with the team in charge of the study:

Caitlin Hutchings
Medical Student
Memorial University of Newfoundland
chutchings@mun.ca

Dr. Geoff Zbitnew, MD
Associate Professor of Anesthesiology
Memorial University of Newfoundland
gzbitnew@mun.ca

Or you can talk to someone who is not involved in the study, but can advise you on your rights as a participant in a research study:

Ethics Office at 709-777-6974
info@hrea.ca

This study has been reviewed and given ethics approval by the Newfoundland and Labrador Health Research Ethics Board. It has also been approved by each of the participating Regional Health Authorities.

Thank you very much for your participation,

Caitlin Hutchings &
Dr. Geoff Zbitnew