



Emergency Medical Services *Partners*

June 2013, Issue 36

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Paramedics and Acute Respiratory Distress



Management of acute respiratory distress is one of the areas where paramedic care has been shown to make a measurable difference in the patient outcome. We observed two cases this last month where paramedics made a true difference in patients who suffered cardio-respiratory arrest.

In Avon, **American Medical Response** paramedic Lester Pourciau and his partner John Racloz responded to a patient with severe dyspnea who had collapsed prior to their arrival and was receiving chest compressions from first responders. With good bagging technique, they were able to ventilate the patient, which along with the chest compressions, helped restore pulses. When **UCONN Fire Department** paramedics John Pickert and Michael Alger arrived, the patient's oxygen saturation was only 81% and she had trismus (jaw clenched shut). Using rapid sequence intubation (RSI) they were able to successfully sedate and paralyze the patient to enable them to pass an endotracheal tube, securing her airway, and raising her saturation to the high 90's. After a two week stay in **John Dempsey Hospital** undergoing treatment for respiratory failure, pneumonia and COPD exacerbation, she was released home.

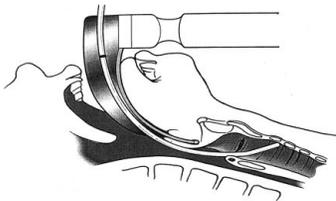


In West Hartford, AMR paramedics Kim Quinn and Evan Scarborough, along with EMT partner Florin Testea responded to a patient with severe respiratory distress with an oxygen saturation in the 50's, who collapsed shortly after their arrival. After a minute of CPR, they restored pulses. The patient had very poor compliance with a BVM, and was intubated by Paramedic Scarborough, who, faced with a difficult airway used a bougie (tracheal tube introducer) to pass the tube. The patient's color immediately improved. At John Dempsey, the patient has been recovering in the ICU, and is doing much better. Both patients owe their lives to the prompt action and skill of our area paramedics. Keep up the great work!

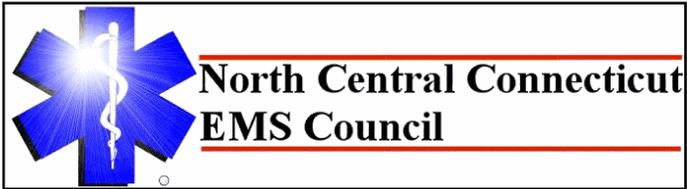


The Bougie

The Bougie endotracheal tube Introducer can be a great tool when faced with a difficult intubation. It should be used as a guide during intubation, either routine or difficult, when the endotracheal tube cannot be passed despite a good view of the vocal chords, an incomplete view of the glottis opening, or when only the epiglottis is visualized. Paramedics should consider having the bougie out and placed on the patient's chest prior to every intubation attempt.



2013 North Central Regional Guidelines (Special Supplement)



The new updates to the North Central EMS Regional Guidelines are scheduled to go into effect on July 1, 2013. Please see our special June Supplemental issue of *Partners* for highlights of the new guidelines. We will be also discussing the new guidelines at both of our June CMEs.

UCONN EMS CONTINUING EDUCATION June Evening CME



New Regional Protocols Rollout
Dr. Richard Kamin
Peter Canning, Paramedic, R.N.



Case Reviews
Dr. Richard Kamin

June 12, 2013 (Wednesday)
7:00 P.M.

Keller Auditorium- John Dempsey Hospital

Pizza and soft drinks will be served at 6:45 P.M.

**ALL EMS RESPONDERS AND GENERAL PUBLIC
WELCOME**

2013 EMS CME SCHEDULE



Morning
June 19, 2013
July—No CME
August—No CME
September 18, 2013
November 16, 2013
December 18, 2013
8:30-11:30 A.M.



Evening
June 12, 2013 (Wednesday)
September 11, 2013 (Wednesday)
December 11, 2013 (Wednesday)
7:00 P.M.-9:00 P.M.

Morning CMES for June and September will be held at East Farms Fire Department, 94 South Road, Farmington. Our quarterly evening CMEs are held in Keller Auditorium in the Main Health Center Building.

All EMS Responders are Welcome!

For more information contact :
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UCONN Health Center EMS Web Site

For news, educational information, CME schedule and past copies of our newsletter *Partners*, check out our web site at:

uconnems.uchc.edu

UCONN EMS CONTINUING EDUCATION June Morning CME



Crush Injuries
Dr. Jermaine Bridges



New Regional Protocols Rollout
Dr. Richard Kamin
Peter Canning, Paramedic, R.N.

Case Reviews: Narcan
Dr. Richard Kamin

Journal Review:
Prehospital Electrocardiographic Computer Identification of ST-segment Elevation Myocardial Infarction
Prehospital Emergency Care April-June 2013

June 19, 2013 (Wednesday)
8:30 A.M.

East Farms Fire Department

Pizza and soft drinks will be served at 6:45 P.M.

**ALL EMS RESPONDERS AND GENERAL PUBLIC
WELCOME**

CONTACT US:

Any questions or suggestions about EMS? Looking for patient follow-up?



Contact EMS Coordinator Peter Canning at
canning@uchc.edu or call (860) 679-3485.