

Training in Total Intravenous Anaesthesia: A survey

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Introduction:

Total intravenous anaesthesia (TIVA) is an anaesthetic technique all anaesthetists should be able to use as part of their skills. In addition, it is a core skill for trainees outlined in the Royal College of Anaesthetists (RCoA) curriculum (1). A recent report from the RCoA highlighted the need for trainees to have a good knowledge and understanding of the technique (2). Our survey looks at trainees' experiences and training in TIVA.

Methods:

After receiving approval from the Head of the London Academy of Anaesthesia, an electronic survey consisting of eleven questions was sent to all London trainees in Anaesthesia. Surveys were distributed by e-mail to trainees at the North Central, Imperial, Barts and the London, South East and St.George's Schools of Anaesthesia.

Results:

We received 155 responses to our survey. We estimate this to be a response rate of 15%. Of the 155 responders 24% were at senior house officers (CT1 and CT2) while 76 % were registrars (ST3-ST7).

The responses revealed the following results:

- 60% of trainees occasionally, rarely or never use TIVA.
- 50% of the trainees occasionally, rarely or never worked with anaesthetists experienced in TIVA
- At least 61.5% of trainees had no formal teaching or training in TIVA.
- 50 % of trainees were not competent using TIVA unsupervised.
- When using TIVA only 38% of trainees use TCI.
- 71% of trainees felt that they would like to use TIVA more and 95% of trainees felt that it is important to be competent and confident in the use of TIVA.

Discussion:

We believe this to be the largest survey in the United Kingdom looking at trainees' experience and training in TIVA. Our survey has clearly shown that trainees consider training in the use of TIVA important in their clinical practice. However our survey demonstrates that many trainees still do not use TIVA or feel competent using it. This may reflect the fact that trainees have had no formal training in using TIVA and rarely work with clinicians experienced in its use.

Acknowledgements:

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References:

- (1) CCT in Anaesthetics III A-30: In12.2.6 & IVH: 3.1.10. April 2009
- (2) RCoA report on SAQ paper April 2009 www.roca.ac.uk