



# NAP4 Major Complications of Airway Management in the United Kingdom

## FACTS



~2.9 million General Anaesthetics are given per year in the UK

**184** adverse incidents reported  
Inclusion criteria: death, eFONA, unexpected ICU admission, prolonged ICU stay



### AIRWAY MANAGEMENT

5% Face Mask  
56% Supraglottic Airway  
38% Tracheal Tube



Life-threatening Airway Complications occur in



**1:20,000** GA's

(Death rate 1:180,000 as a result of Airway Complications)

### TIMING

**28%** of events occur at emergence

**1/4**



of events occurred in the **ED** or in **ICU**

**39%** of patients had underlying airway pathology

**Obese** patients represented **2x** the normal population in NAP 4



## LEARNING POINTS

**Poor airway assessment** leads to **Poor planning** leading to **Poor outcomes**

Causes of problems included...

- MULTIPLE ATTEMPTS at intubation
- INAPPROPRIATE use of SADs
- AFOI indicated but NOT PERFORMED

### CAPNOGRAPHY



Lack of capnography contributed to **70%** of ICU deaths

Failure to interpret capnography



Delayed recognition of oesophageal intubation

### Displaced tracheostomies

were the predominant cause of morbidity & mortality in ITU



### Cricothyroidotomy success rate

Needle  
40%



Scalpel  
almost  
100%