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## Airway management

### **COCHRANE SYSTEMATIC REVIEW: Emergency intubation for acutely ill and injured patients**

*Implications for practice:* Effectiveness unknown

*Review Overview:* The highest priority in an emergency is to enable a patient to breathe by securing their airway. Endotracheal intubation is one of various ways to secure the airway. However, this review reveals that the efficacy of emergency intubation as currently practiced has not been rigorously studied. Based on two trials on adults and one involving children, no difference was found between endotracheal intubation and other airway securing strategies for reducing deaths after non-traumatic cardiac arrest in adults or prehospital situations with children.

**LINK to Cochrane Library:** 2008 Issue 2 <http://www.mrw.interscience.wiley.com/cochrane/clsysrev/articles/CD001429/frame.html>

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### **COCHRANE SYSTEMATIC REVIEW: Rocuronium versus succinylcholine for rapid sequence induction intubation**

*Implications for practice:* Succinylcholine creates superior intubation conditions

*Review Overview:* In emergency situations some patients need a general anaesthetic with an endotracheal tube. Succinylcholine is the most commonly used muscle relaxant because of its fast onset and short duration; unfortunately, it can have serious side effects. This updated meta-analysis compared one possible alternative, rocuronium, to succinylcholine to examine the quality of intubation conditions. This review of 37 studies with a total of 2690 patients found that rocuronium is less effective than succinylcholine for creating excellent intubation conditions. Contrary to the previous meta-analysis, the intubation conditions were superior with succinylcholine as compared to propofol.

**LINK to Cochrane Library:** 2008 Issue 2 <http://www.mrw.interscience.wiley.com/cochrane/clsysrev/articles/CD002788/frame.html>