

CORRESPONDENCE

dioxide sampling tubing is connected at this site. The male site of the T-tubing is connected to the angiocatheter hub. The remaining length of T-tubing can be customized to the optimal length for each patient, as shown in figure 2.

We have found this device to be simple to prepare, inexpensive and reliable.

Mahendra G. Shah, M.D.
Pain Fellow
Department of Anesthesiology
New York Medical College

Assistant Attending Physician
Westchester County Medical Center

Lawrence Epstein, M.D.
Assistant Professor and Director of Obstetric
Anesthesia
New York Medical College
Valhalla, New York 10595

(Accepted for publication May 19, 1994.)

Anesthesiology
81:780, 1994
© 1994 American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc.
J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia

Global Department of Anesthesiology Formed

To the Editor:—Last year, Ruskin and Tissot described an Internet listserv dedicated to the promotion and discussion of anesthesia.¹ Primarily for anesthesiologists, this list is joined by CRNAs, anesthesia technicians, and researchers. As of April 1994, this list had 320 members. Although Sopcak also had created a list,² the Ruskin-Tissot list was the first list cited in anesthesiology literature. Both of these lists enjoy success. This medium provides a worldwide informal dialog among anesthesia professionals.

As an example of the value of participating, we would like to present a synopsis of 1 month's messages. An examination of the anesthesiology list dialog of March 1994† revealed 207 messages contributed. These messages addressed 28 topics, e.g., premedication of children, spinal morphine following spinal surgery, cost savings, and partner in operating room during cesarean section. Represented in these discussions were the following countries: Australia, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, United States, and several participants from European countries. A request for comments from a representative of the Food and Drug Administration regarding neurotoxicity of 5% lidocaine elicited six responses.‡

The potential of this method of communication to have an impact on modern anesthesiology is relatively untapped. Private practice physicians can join their academic counterparts for consultation and dialog. Responses from other caregivers, both academic and private, can add a new source for consultation in a difficult case. Subscription, for those with access to the Internet, is free. Individuals who do not have access to the Internet can subscribe to the list *via* popular and widely available on-line services such as CompuServe and America

On-Line. The list is open to anyone who wishes to subscribe. There is discussion about making subscription "limited" to preserve the professional nature of the discussion list. Individuals have expressed concern about being inundated with irrelevant mail. Current traffic is averaging four messages per day on the anesthesiology list. If this increased to unmanageable levels, "moderated" sublists could be created, meaning that a moderator would check all messages before distribution on the network.

We encourage readers to investigate for themselves the value of this new communication method as an instrument of ongoing and wide-ranging medical education that is not excessively time-consuming.

S. C. Mentzer, B.S.
Academic Computing and Networking Coordinator
smentzer@anes.hmc.dsu.edu

W. B. Murray, M.B., Ch.B., F.F.A.R.C.S., M.D.
Associate Professor of Anesthesia
wmurray@anes.hmc.psu.edu

K. H. Shelley, M.D., Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Anesthesia
kshelley@anes.hmc.psu.edu

Department of Anesthesia
The Pennsylvania State University
College of Medicine
500 University Drive
Hershey, Pennsylvania 17033

* Anesthesia Discussion List [Online]. Available email: anest-1@ubvm.cc.buffalo.edu.

† Anesthesiology Discussion Group Digest [Online]. Available FTP: gasnet.med.nyu.edu Directory: pub/anes/digests File: 94-03.txt.

‡ Bedford R (1994, March 8). Spinal 5% Lidocaine. Anesthesiology Discussion Group [Online]. Available email: anesthology@med.nyu.edu.

Reference

1. Ruskin KJ, Tissot M: A new method of communication between anesthesiologists (letter). *ANESTHESIOLOGY* 79:867, 1993

(Accepted for publication May 19, 1994.)