

CLINICAL "SNIPPETS"

Effect of emergency medical technician-placed Combitubes on outcomes after out-of-hospital cardiopulmonary arrest.

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Overview: While emergency medical technicians-basic (EMT-Bs) in select emergency medical services (EMS) agencies use the Esophageal Tracheal Combitube (ETC) for the airway management of out-of-hospital cardiopulmonary arrests, the effect of this intervention on patient outcomes is not known. We compared the associations between initial EMT ETC placement and initial paramedic endotracheal intubation (ETI) on patient survival after out-of-hospital cardiopulmonary arrest.

Conclusions: Compared with initial paramedic ETI, initial EMT-B ETC placement was not associated with patient survival after out-of-hospital cardiac arrest.