

CLINICAL "SNIPPETS"

"The effect of pulse oximetry on emergency medical technician decision making."

Van Dyk N, Cloyd D, Rea T, et al:

Prehospital Emergency Care . 8(4):417-419, 2004.

Overview: This study asked whether adding pulse oximetry to the EMT-Basic scope of practice would have an effect on the need for ALS to respond to a scene as well as BLS personnel.

Conclusion: The addition of pulse oximetry improved the efficiency of the EMS system by reducing the number of times an ALS crew was required on scene AND more appropriately matched response levels to the patient's condition.