

**ASSOCIATION OF AIRWAY MANAGEMENT METHODS AND PREHOSPITAL
TRANSPORT TIMES IN SEVERE TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY**

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African Conference on Emergency Medicine, Accra, Ghana, 30 October-1 November 2012
<https://afcem.info/afcem12/>

Objective: The objective of the study was to describe the association of airway management methods and prehospital transport times in severe traumatic brain injury.

Methods: A two part retrospective and prospective review of data at two level one centres in Cape Town of patients sustaining severe traumatic brain injury. Patients were categorized according to the type of airway intervention performed on the scene: sedation-assisted intubation, failed intubation, rapid sequence intubation, intubated without drugs, basic airway management. Prehospital transport times were determined for each group.

Findings: The group that underwent basic airway management had the quickest mean total time of 51 minutes followed by the failed intubation group with 58 minutes. Patients who underwent RSI had a mean total time of 61 minutes and the group who had an LMA in-situ due to a failed intubation had a mean total time of 74 minutes. Lastly, the group that encountered sedation-assisted intubation had a mean total time of 70 minutes.

Conclusion: Patients who undergo endotracheal intubation appear to spend more time on scene in comparison with patients who undergo basic airway management.