Rapid Sequence Induction in France in 2016 : a national survey

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Background and Goal of Study :

The **rapid sequence induction (RSI)** of general anesthesia (GA) in full stomach situation **is used to avoid aspiration**. Excepted in the particular situation of GA performed outside of the operating room, **there is no French guidelines about how to perform an RSI**, that could lead to wide variability in practices. **This survey aimed to collect data about the practice of the RSI in France.**

Materials and Methods :

This **national electronic survey** was conducted between April and June 2016, to anesthesiologists-intensivists, intensivists and emergency physicians of the **32 University Hospitals and Regional Hospitals of France**. After approvement, the head of each department diffused an e-mail with a link to an electronic form to all practitioners. The form included **37 closed anonymous questions**. 5 practitioners tested the form before his diffusion and answered it in **5 to 7 minutes**.

Results :

57 of the 155 heads of department contacted accepted to participate. **2111 practitioners** from 26 hospitals should have received the form. **402 (19%)** of them **have answered**. Among the 402 responders 309 (**77%**) **were senior practitioners**, 96 (23%) junior; 236 (**59%**) were **anesthesiologists**, 26 (6%) intensivists and 140 (35%) emergency physicians. **398/402 (99%) practitioners said to perform RSI**. 177/398 (**44%**) practitioners **used the Sellick maneuver (SM)** during RSI. 132 of 185 practitioners (71%) thought there was no scientific proof of SM utility, 65 (35%) thought the SM inefficient and 61 (33%) thought the SM increases the risk of difficult airway.

	Aneshtesiologists (n=234)	Intensivists n= 25	Emergency Physicians n=139	Total n=398
Sellick maneuver	114 (49%)	6 (24%)	57 (41%)	177 (44%)
Muscle relaxant use Always	192 (82%)	19 (76%)	118 (85%)	329 (83%)
Suxamethonium	230 (98%)	21 (84%)	139 (100%)	390 (98%)
No morphinomimetics use	85 (36%)	17 (68%)	107 (77%)	209 (53%)
Etomidate Propofol	125 (53%) 191 (82%)	20 (80%) 8 (32%)	136 (98%) 3 (2%)	281 (71%) 202 (51%)

Discussion :

The **practice of RSI is not homogeneous among French practitioners**. Mainly, the practice **depends on the practitioner speciality**. With little morphinomimetics and SM, **French practices are close to German ones**, when Americans and British use more SM and morphinomimetics before laryngoscopy.

Conclusion(s) :

Actualized guidelines adapted to current practices and specific clinical situations are needed.