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Background

- Malignant Hyperthermia (MH) is a rare anaesthetic emergency that is triggered by a potent inhalational anaesthetics or succinylcholine¹
- MH carries a high mortality rate of 2-3%²
- The key to successful management of MH is its early diagnosis and prompt initiation of treatment
- Treatment of MH is complex and requires a team work

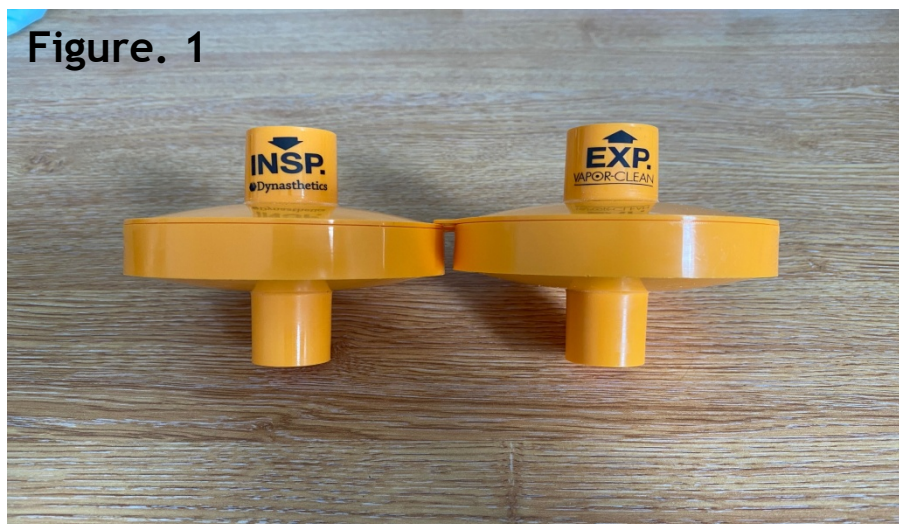


Figure. 1

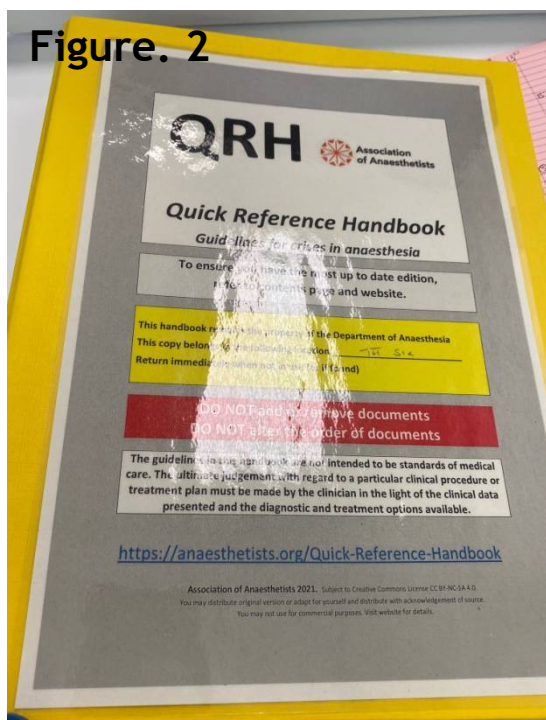


Figure. 2

Figure. 1 Activated charcoal filters are placed on inspiratory and expiratory limbs of the anaesthetic machine in order to adsorb inhalational agent¹

Figure. 2 The Quick Reference Handbook (QRH) is a collection of guidelines for crisis in anaesthesia, including a section on management of MH

Aim

- To raise awareness of importance of early recognition and prompt initiation of treatment amongst anaesthetic nurses/ODPs
- To ensure anaesthetic nurses & ODPs are aware of the location of activated charcoal filters and how to use them

Interventions

- A chapter on MH on Quick Reference Handbook (QRH) was updated
- The Anaesthetic department was e-mailed with the formal guideline recently published by the Association of Anaesthetists
- An information sheet was added to the QRH, explaining where to find activated charcoal filters and how to use them
- An educational session was delivered during the theatre staff's CPD session, demonstrating how to use the activated charcoal filters
- A poster describing guidelines for the emergency treatment of MH is now available in every anaesthetic room

Suggestions

- More regular demonstration on where to find activated charcoal filters and how to use them at CPD sessions