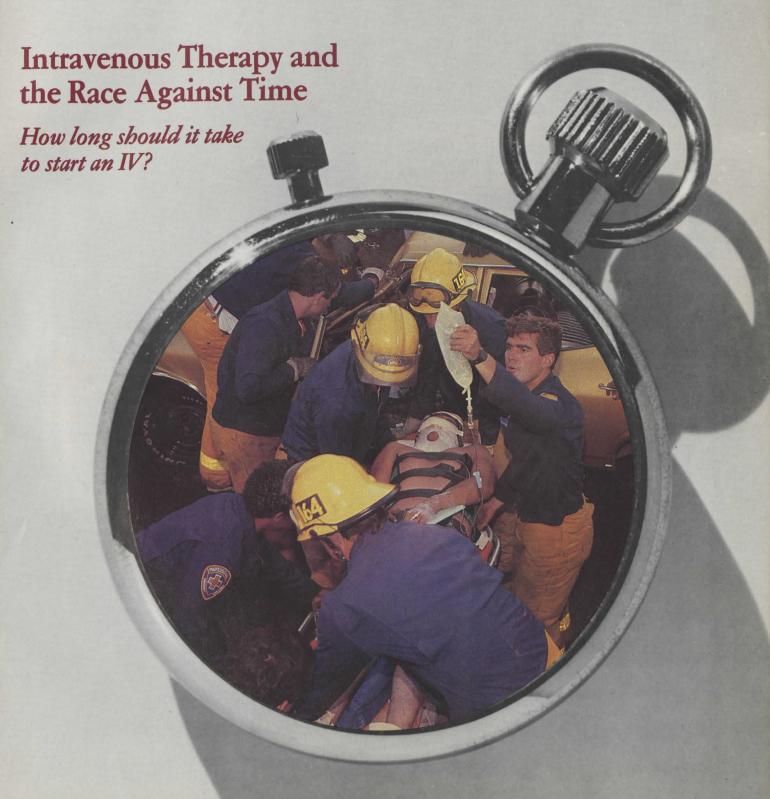


The Ambulance Bypass: When the Public *Doesn't* Call

Cardiology Practicum

Preventing Traumatic Injuries

Passing the "Hysteria Threshold"





James O. Page, Publisher Keith Griffiths, Executive Editor Cleve Trimble, MD, Medical Editor Rick Minerd, Senior Editor Dana A. Jarvis, Production Editor Gary R. Williams, Director of Marketing Lisa J. Cota, Advertising Manager Thom Dick, Associate Editor Molly Hillson, Executive Assistant Susan Seymour, Circulation Manager Ron St. Germain, Assistant Editor Dave Beck, Editorial Intern Maureen Maguire, Art Director Theresa Breining, Conference Manager Gail Westmoreland, Copy Editor Contributing Editors: Garry Briese, Norm Dinerman, MD, Mike Frank, MD, Gary Morris, Mary Newman, William Roush, MD

Jems Publishing Company, Inc.

James O. Page Chairman of the Board

> Gary R. Williams President

Keith Griffiths Secretary-Treasurer

Editorial/Advertising Offices 215 South Highway 101, Suite 100 P.O. Box 1026 Solana Beach, CA 92075 619/481-1128

jems, Journal of Emergency Medical Services, (ISSN 0197-2510; Fed. ID #22-2357324) is published monthly by Jems Publishing Co., 215 South Highway 101, Suite 100, P.O. Box 1026, Solana Beach, CA 92075.

Subscription information: Send \$17.95 for one year (12 issues), \$29.95 for two years (24 issues) or \$39.95 for three years (36 issues) to P.O. Box 27966, San Diego, CA 92128. Add \$6 per year for Canadian subscriptions, \$12 per year for foreign subscriptions. For subscription orders, problems or for a change of address, call toll free in the 48 contiguous states: 800/321-3333 (in California call 800/354-8400).

Advertising information: Rates are available upon request. Contact Lisa Cota, advertising manager, at 215 South Highway 101, Suite 100, P.O. Box 1026, Solana Beach, CA 92075; 619/481-1128.

Editorial information: Manuscripts and queries should be directed to Keith Griffiths, editor, P.O. Box 1026, Solana Beach, CA 92075. Editorial guidelines are available upon request. Submitted manuscripts should be typed, doublespaced and submitted in triplicate.

Microfiche: jems is available on microfiche. Please direct inquiries to Bell & Howell, Micro Photo Division, Old Mansfield Road, Wooster, OH 44691; 800/321-9881 (in Ohio call 216/264-6666 collect).

Copyright 1986 Jems Publishing Co., Inc. No material can be reproduced without the express permission of the publisher, ISSN 0197-2510. (Fed. ID #22-2357324).

Postmaster: Send address changes to jems, P.O. Box 27966, San Diego, CA 92128.

Second-class circulation postage paid at Solana Beach, California and at additional mailing offices.

Cover photo by Tom Page. Inset photo by Pat Olsen.

CONTENTS

AUGUST 1986 VOL.11 NO.8

Features

- 30 Motor Vehicle Trauma Injury Prevention by KATHRYN D. HOFFMAN, EMTA, MS, ED., DALE L. KEMMERER, MD AND JEANNE O'BRIEN, RN. The types of injuries in a vehicle, the roles and responsibilities of the EMT in trauma prevention, and the myths and facts about seat belt usage are presented.
- 34 Ambulance Bypass BY JOHN A MACKEY, MD. While most studies focus on the overuse of ambulances for non-emergencies, little is known about underutilization of emergency services, where serious injuries arrive at the emergency departments by private vehicle.
- 38 Cardiology Practicum BY MIKE TAIGMAN AND SYD CANAN. An advanced approach to EKG interpretation can be rewarding to the EMT and beneficial to the patient.
- The Hysteria Threshold, Gaining Control of the Emergency Caller BY JEFFREY J. CLAWSON, MD. Avoiding the natural inclination to hang up is the first action to take, but there are more ways to gain the upper hand with an hysterical caller.
- 43 IV Line Placement, A time study for prehospital providers BY RICHARD FELDMAN, REMTP. Does it really take 11 minutes to start an IV line? Only a stopwatch in the field would answer the question in this study.

Columns

- **20** Around the Nation by Dana Jarvis Paramedic Services Studied in Delaware; Illinois Straightens its "Act"; Fund-Raising Drive in Montana a Success.
- 25 Current Research by Bruce Goldfarb Flight Physicians; Fibrinolytic Therapy; Designated Critical Care; Pediatric Resuscitation.
- 27 EMT Insight by Barbara A. Eiler Reflections.
- **28** Tricks of the Trade by Thom Dick A Deadly Blush: Are C-collars Raising Intracranial Pressures?
- 46 The Legal File by C.J. Shanaberger Third-Party Liability.
- 56 Public Forum by Dennis Murphy Keeping Pace With The Consumer.
- 63 Interface by Jack L. Stout Peas in a Pod.
- 65 Innovations by Thom Dick A Better Defib Pad.
- 66 The Publisher's Page by James O. Page Blame A Bad Boss.

Departments

- 4 Editorial A Pleasant Surprise; Dispatching Revisited.
- 6 Guest Comment A Matter of Equity by Joseph B. Phillips, Jr. MBA, EMT
- 8 Letters Twenty Years of Memories; Legal File Correction; A Final Last Word; Public Forum Interrogation; Feeling Like an "Octopus"; July Letters Revisited.
- 13 Inside EMS California Ambulance Services Form Self-Insurance Company; Border Patrol Agents First-Responder Certified; ACEP Adopts "EMS Week" at Conference; Virginia Ambulance Warn-

- ing Prompts Similar Reports; ACEP Proposal; Updates and Corrections.
- 22 Calendar
- 48 Review The Paramedic Review Manual by Jonathan Politis, et al, reviewed by Scott Bourn
- 49 Classifieds
- 50 Ad Index
- From the state of the state of
- 62 In the Industry