

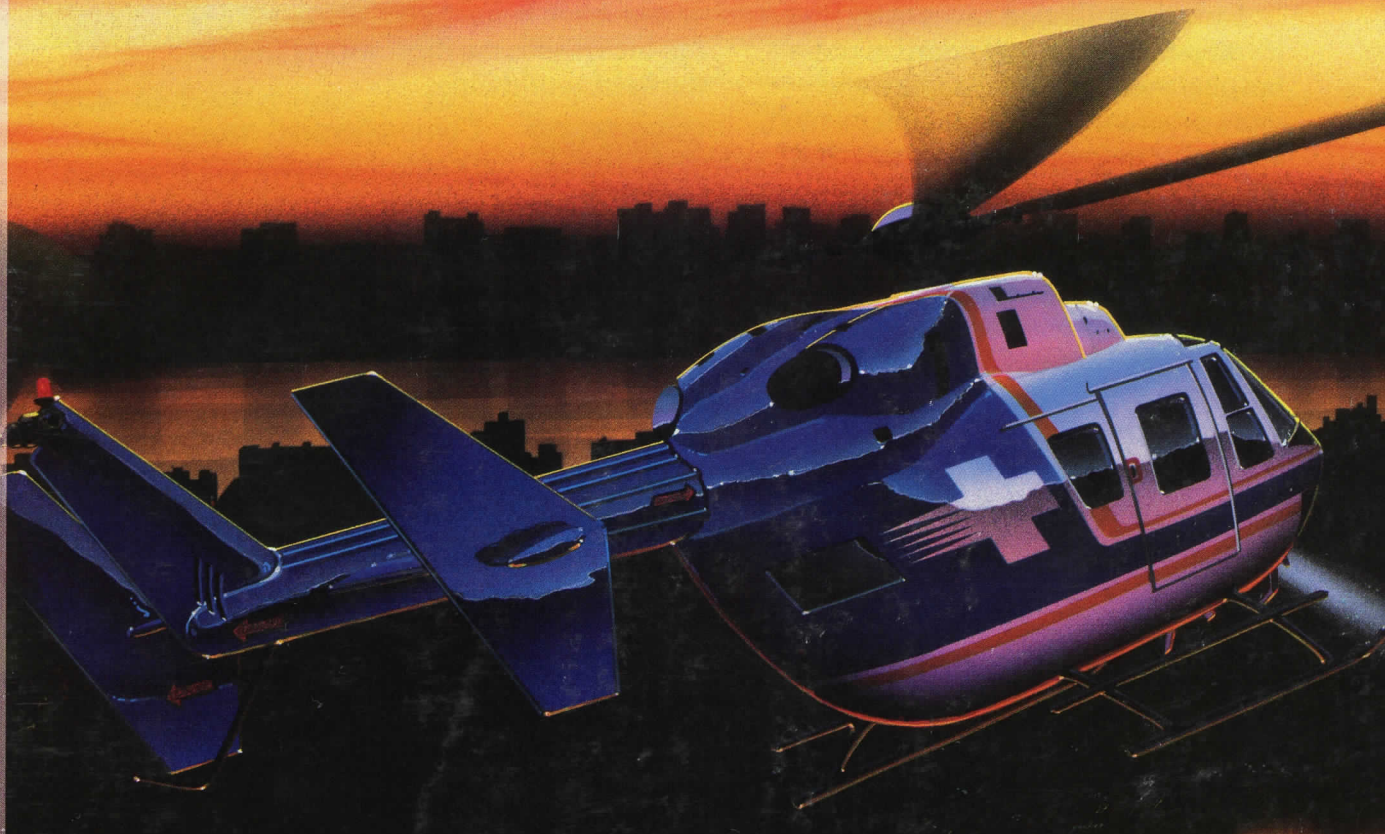
November 1989 Volume 14 Number 11 \$3.00

Probing  
Acute  
Abdominal  
Pain

# Jems

JOURNAL OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Air Medical  
Survey  
Trauma  
Pollies



ECONOMICS, SAFETY AND PATIENT CARE

**FORECASTING AIR MEDICINE IN THE 90s**

*W. J. Miller*

# CONTENTS

## FEATURES

**Acute Abdominal Pain: 28**  
**Exploring the Gut-Level Causes (CEU Article)**

by Phil B. Fontanarosa, MD

Acute abdominal pain is a complaint often heard by prehospital providers. Proper treatment in such cases hinges on a thorough patient assessment and prompt identification of the underlying cause of the pain.

**Will Turbulence Stall 42**  
**Air Medicine?**

by Marion Angell Garza

Conditions in the air medical industry have improved dramatically since the first hospital-based service was founded in 1972. Will the industry continue to soar in the 1990s, or is it heading for a nose dive?

**Use of Air Medical 54**  
**Services for Scene Responses: A Survey of EMS Personnel**

by Nicholas H. Benson, MD, and Richard C. Hunt, MD

What are your views about using air medical services for scene responses? This survey is designed to identify those attitudes, procedures and protocols across the country that guide the use of medical helicopters.

**Smooth Landings: 58**  
**A Safe Approach to Air Medicine**

by Dave Samuels, NREMT-P

As the number of patients transported by air medical services increases, so do concerns over safety in the skies. The NTSB and air medical associations are making strides in imposing safety controls and

exploring other options that will improve the industry's safety record.

**Trauma Follies: 64**  
**Choreographing EMS and Rescue in Training**

by Jack A. Ballinger

When EMS providers are trained alongside fire and rescue personnel, cooperation at actual emergency scenes is improved. The joint-service course at Hillsborough Community College in Florida offers a lesson in concerted emergency efforts.

## COLUMNS

**The Publisher's Page 6**

by Jim Page

Disturbing Similarities

**Current Research 23**

by Bruce Goldfarb



**Special Report 24**

by Lee A. Reeder, III  
California Quake

**Tricks of the Trade 26**

by Thom Dick  
Library in Your Pocket

**The Legal File 68**

by Carol J. Shanaberger  
Don't Drop the Patient

**Teacher Talk 70**

by Jerry L. Durnbaugh  
Taking the Fear Out of Tests

**Clinical Q & A 72**

by Scott Bourn  
Curiosity Saved the Patient

**Interface 79**

by Jack Stout  
Charting the Path of Clinical Progress

**In the Industry 96**

by Rick Minerd

## DEPARTMENTS

Letters 9

Inside EMS 19

Calendar 75

Classifieds 88

Inroads 95

Advertiser Directory 97

The Last Word 98

Cover: Illustration by Peter Wells

# PATA

PROFESSIONAL AEROMEDICAL TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION

## Quality in Aeromedical Life Support!

A Seminar for Physicians, Nurses, Paramedics, EMTs, RTs, Pilots, and Air Ambulance Operators.



Burlingame, California, March 6-9, 1990  
Hyatt Regency, San Francisco Airport Hotel



A three-and-one-half-day symposium for the medical and aviation professional in basic aeromedical transport and updates in regulations and procedures.

Participants will be trained to:

- understand the physiological effects of flight on the patients.
- identify the patients needs in flight.
- learn how to assist patient to adjust to changes caused by high-altitude transport.
- learn emergency and safety procedures.
- updates in Federal Drug Testing Program.

### Continuing Medical Education Credits

PATA's 1989 Symposium had Category I AMA and Category I CMEs for Doctors and CEUs for Nurses, Paramedics, EMTs and RTs. The 1990 CMEs and CEUs have been applied for

For your information, write or call (toll free): 1-800-541-7517

For your convenience, fill out and return the slip below to receive information on the symposium.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Professional Aeromedical Transport Association  
P.O. Box 7519 • Alexandria, VA 22307 • (703) 660-9200

For More Information Circle #11 on Reader Service Card

# Jems

JOURNAL OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Publisher and Editor-in-Chief  
James O. Page

Publisher and Executive Editor  
Keith Griffiths

Managing Editor  
Nancy Peterson

Medical Editor  
William J. Koenig, MD

Senior Editor  
Diane Lofshult

Associate Editors  
Thom Dick

Marion Garza

Lee A. Reeder III

Assistant Editor  
Vivian Griffiths

CEU Program Coordinator  
Twink Gorgen, RN

Contributing Editors

Betty Till, RN; Norm Dinerman, MD;  
Mike Frank, MD; Gary Morris; Mary Newman;  
William Roush, MD; Garry Briese;  
Ken Stults; and Bruce Goldfarb

Art Director  
Robert Schmitt

Production Manager  
Dana Jarvis Bies

Production Coordinator  
Janene Long

Graphic Artist  
Kathy Bush

Associate Publisher/Sales  
Rick Miner

Advertising Director  
Lisa J. Cota

Account Executive  
Marte Reavis

Corporate Controller  
Marilyn Bock

Assistant Controller  
Garth M. Howe

Corporate Accounting Coordinator  
Tracey Smith

Accounting Assistant  
Shanon Wolper

Circulation Consultant  
Jay W. Hillis

Circulation Fulfillment Manager  
Stephen W. Phillips

Circulation/Direct Marketing Coordinator  
Dave Forman

Director of Conference Operations  
Betty Till

Assistant Conference Planner  
Tamara McConnell

Executive Assistant  
Pamela Birnbrauer

Customer Service Manager  
Terri Maddox

Customer Service Representative  
Shawn Guy

Research Director  
Charles D. Toporek

Receptionist/Administrative Assistant  
Kelly Kenney

Jems Publishing Company, Inc.  
President

James O. Page

Secretary/Treasurer  
Keith Griffiths

Vice President  
Betty Till

Editorial Interns  
Julie Bobes

Steve Garber

JEMS, Journal of Emergency Medical Services, ISSN 0197-2510, is published monthly by JEMS Publishing Co., 674 Via de la Valle, Suite 200, P.O. Box 1026, Solana Beach, CA 92075; 619/481-1128 (Fed. ID #22-2357324).

**Subscription information:** Send \$19.97 for one year (12 issues), \$33.97 for two years (24 issues) or \$44.97 for three years (36 issues) to P.O. Box 27966, San Diego, CA 92128. Add \$10 per year for Canadian subscriptions, \$20 per year for foreign subscriptions. For new orders only, call toll free 1-800/334-8152 (in Calif. call 1-800/255-3302).

**Advertising information:** Rates are available upon request. Contact JEMS Advertising Department at 674 Via de la Valle, Suite 200, P.O. Box 1026, Solana Beach, CA 92075; 619/481-1128.

**Editorial information:** Manuscripts and queries should be directed to Nancy Peterson, P.O. Box 1026, Solana Beach, CA 92075. Editorial guidelines are available upon request. Submitted manuscripts should be typed, double-spaced and submitted in quadruplicate.

**Microfiche:** JEMS is available on microfiche. Please direct inquiries to University Microfilms International, 300 North Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48106; 800/521-3044.

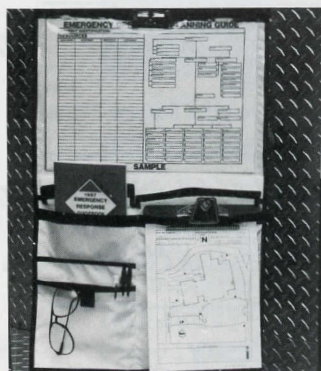
**Copyright 1989** Jems Publishing Co., Inc. No material can be reproduced without the express permission of the publisher.

**Postmaster:** Send address changes to JEMS, P.O. Box 27966, San Diego, CA 92128-9959. Claims of non-receipt or damaged issues must be filed within three months of cover date.

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

BPA membership applied for November 1988.

## INCIDENT COMMAND ATTACHE



The I.C.S. ATTACHE allows you to carry the things you may need to operate an effective incident command — **IN ONE HAND.**

Shown in white for illustration purpose only, color black.

1-9 Attaches

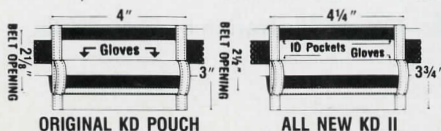
**\$3250** ea.

10 or more

**\$2950** ea.



K.D. E.M.S. Glove Pouch is made of cordura nylon, held closed by an easy open Velcro Brand® flap and is worn on the belt. Color black.



ORIGINAL KD POUCH

ALL NEW KD II

ORIGINAL K-D OR K-D II

1-9 Pouches \$4.75 ea.

10-99 \$4.50 ea.

100-499 \$4.25 ea.

500 plus \$3.75 ea.

Make checks payable to:

**THE JEFFERY CO.**

1210 Auburn Way N., B-106

Auburn WA 98002

1-206-631-8886

PURCHASE ORDERS ACCEPTED • DEALER INQUIRIES WELCOME

THE  
J  
E  
F  
F  
E  
R  
Y  
C  
O.

For More Information Circle #12 on Reader Service Card