

# Critical Incident

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# Patient M

- 62M
- # Right fibula following fall down stairs
  - Listed for Ankle ORIF
- PMH
  - PE 18 months ago (2007)- on warfarin for 6 months
    - Investigated by haematology- no evidence of inherited thrombophilia

# On examination

- No history of Reflux
- Previous GA uneventful
- Non-smoker, drinks 4u/wk ETOH
  
- NKDA
- BMI 45
- Mouth opening- 3 fingers, Jaw slide A, Normal Neck, ROM, MP II

- Anaesthetic Plan
  - Spinal anaesthesia and opiate (diamorphine adjunct)
- Difficult insertion- 3 attempts
- Confusion between the two 5ml syringes resulted in Diamorphine 3.5-4mg being given in error.



- Error identified prior to surgery-
  - Situation explained to patient- no immediate ill effects.
- Surgery continued with GA and LMA size 4
  - Pt kept spontaneously breathing and closely monitored
- No respiration depression occurred in theatres or recovery
- Pt kept in HDU for observation for 48hrs
- No respiratory depression or symptoms of pruritis occurred -naloxone was not required.

# Discussion- Prevention

- Use of sterile labels included in the packs
- Specially coloured or marked syringes, or specially designed syringes e.g 4ml syringe only for spinal use.
- Use of another concentration of diamorphine e.g. 10mg ampoules are available.
- Removing the diamorphine 5ml syringe from trolley once mixture is prepared