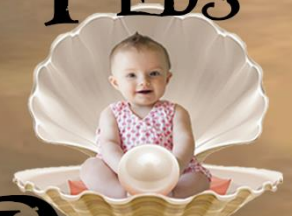
Peds Pearls



Adult vs. Pediatric ABCs

Beyond Airway, Breathing, and Circulation

Scott DeBoer RN, MSN, CPEN, CEN, CFRN, CCRN, EMT-P
Founder of Pedi-Ed-Trics Emergency Medical Solutions, LLC
Contributed by: Stu McVicar RRT, FP-C, CCEMT-P

"ABCDEFG… Now I know my ABCs…" This song has been drilled into our heads since, well, since as long as we can remember! And it didn't end when we started school. We still have to know our ABCs throughout our healthcare careers. Early on while working as a flight medic/RT, I learned to break down the ABCs into adult and pediatric versions.



ABC

Adult ABCs stands for ALWAYS BRING CAMERA! If you have had the experience of flying in a helicopter on the night of a Chicago Cubs game at Wrigley Field, a Green Bay Packers game at Lambeau Field, or even better, a Grateful Dead concert in Las Vegas, it is very likely that before the evening is over, you will have seen some of the most bizarre things in your career.

Legal/Risk Management Note:
Healthcare regulations tend to disagree with the camera concept and suggest, rather strongly, that you stay with the Airway, Breathing, Circulation version learned in CPR class.

Pediatric ABCs are a bit different. ABC stands for APNEA, BRADYCARDIA, CORONER. If you ever have a bradycardic child, check his or her airway. When kids get hypoxic, their heart rate plummets! Hypoxia is the number one reason for bradycardia in a pediatric patient, so chances are the bradycardia problem is respiratory in nature. And if it's not respiratory, it's probably respiratory. Remember the American Lung Association's motto… If you can't breathe, nothing else matters! So, if the pediatric patient is apneic, check the airway. And if the pediatric patient is bradycardic, check the airway. And if you don't check the airway, be prepared to call the coroner.

DEFG

If we expand our pediatric ABCs lesson even further, we find the next set of letters. DEFG stands for **DONT EVER FORGET GLUCOSE**! This is probably the most overlooked lab value in the pediatric population, especially with the littlest ones and the coldest ones. Now, you really know your ABCs!



Pedi-Ed-Trics™
Emergency Medical Solutions, LLC



Peds Pearls™ is a registered trademark of Pedi-Ed-Trics Emergency Medical Solutions, LLC and is intended to provide accurate pediatric emergency Tips, Tricks, and Treasures for emergency medical professionals when caring for critically ill or injured children. However, always follow your medical director's specific protocols.

Contact us to have Scott DeBoer or one of our other pediatric experts present at your next conference.

Info@PediEd.com ∿ 1-888-280-PEDS (7337) ∿ PediEd.com

