

THE ANTICHOKING MEDICAL DEVICES SAVE 30 LIVES IN FOUR MONTHS

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Fifty percent of the nursing home users or individuals with an intellectual disability from the AMAS, suffer from oropharyngeal dysphagia.

The inclusion of anti-choking devices has given a direct and accessible tool to the general and specialized population in the management of choking incidents caused by the obstruction of the upper respiratory tract by a foreign object, which until now could only be handled by the Heimlich maneuver, maneuver that can't be applied to all the population.

According to Primitivo Ramos, the medical welfare coordinator of the MADRID SOCIAL ATTENTION AGENCY (AMAS), since the organism acquired the safest device to act against choking incidents, it has been used in 28 adults and 2 children, in nursing homes, centers for the intellectually challenged and facilities for minors, with satisfactory results, estimating that they have been saved from complications or even death.

AN INCOMPARABLE ADVANTAGE OF THE DEVICE IS THAT IT HAS BEEN PROVEN THAT IT DOESN'T NEED THE COLLABORATION OF THE SUBJECT.

"As professionals, we must make the effort to record choking incidents, of the use of this devices and their results. Only then we will have rigorous data, when in these records we can confirm the fundamental and immediate cause of death, because nowadays some records don't consider these episodes. From here on we would have more data to establish preventive strategies in this matter", he said.

Fifty percent of nursing home users or individuals with an intellectual disability from the AMAS, suffer from oropharyngeal dysphagia, difficulty in swallowing and controlling their reflexes regarding neuromotor coordination for swallowing.

This data took us to the conclusion that we have a very prevalent problem and that it had to be tackled by the Strategic Plan that was approved in 2016 to modernize and improve the quality of service provided by the centers that bets big for safety. "We pretend that the approximately 8,000 people we attend, live more comfortably, safer and that the attention we provide is more personalized", Ramos said.

ROUGHLY 2,700 DEATHS

In Spain, each year 2.700 people die due to asphyxia caused by choking, 1,900 of them are caused by a foreign object getting stuck in the upper respiratory tract, (almost 6 individuals each day). A great percentage take place in collective places like the ones that the AMAS is in charge of: children and older adults, in which cases they haven't developed the swallowing reflexes or in the case of the older

adults they tend to regress and people who suffer oropharyngeal dysphagia (difficulty in chewing and swallowing from the mouth to the larynx) from having a compromised neuromotor coordination for chewing and swallowing in a proper way, (capacity to push food thru the larynx into the esophagus and impede its entry to the respiratory tract).

Regarding to this vulnerable population we must act accordingly to the learnings we have had in the first aid courses. In this manner the well fare medical coordinator explains that “we are not going to question the proven scientific methodology, but there is a decisive variable in this process, that is calm. Calm of the one who suffers the choking incident, and of the one helping him out. The efficiency of the Heimlich Maneuver in a theoretical class is much greater than in a real-life scenario. For example, in people with dementia, the patient doesn’t collaborate, to the contrary he gets excited and impedes the work of the therapist or person helping him out”.

IT DOESN’T NEED THE COLLABORATION OF THE SUBJECT

Due to this from the AMAS, we have bet big on implementing a greater security by acquiring anti-choking devices for all centers, depending on how much social kitchens and vulnerable individuals are in each one of them.

An incomparable advantage of the device is that there’s no need for the collaboration of the subject and that it generates a negative pressure of 3 to 5 times greater than the pressure that any human could generate by applying the Heimlich Maneuver.

The anti-choking devices are part of the infrastructure and equipment improvement that 50 to-60% of people being taken care by AMAS with neuro degenerative problems, dementia, sclerosis and psychiatric conditions need.

One of these devices is Dechoker, it comes in three sizes for babies after 12 months of age, kids till 12 years of age and for adults, it works great for older adults and pregnant women in which the Heimlich Maneuver poses a risk.

The device allows anyone to face a choking emergency in homes, schools, restaurants and social places. Even more it allows the first responders and emergency personnel to act in a more efficient and safer way.

