

ACTA CLINICA CROATICA

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MANAGEMENT WITH INTERNATIONAL  
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**OF AIRWAY  
MANAGEMENT**

with International Participation

**THE AIRWAY FROM THE PERSPECTIVES  
OF VARIOUS MEDICAL PROFESSIONS**

16.-18. 9. 2022.

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# PREAMBLE

Dear colleagues and airway friends,

It is my great honor and pleasure to introduce this thematic issue of *Acta Clinica Croatica* which contains manuscripts collected during the 4<sup>th</sup> Croatian Congress of Airway Management with International Participation held on September 16-18, 2022, in Zagreb, Croatia. The Congress was organized by the Croatian Society of Difficult Airway Management of the Croatian Medical Association (CMA-CSDAM), and endorsed by the Department of Anesthesiology, Resuscitation, and Intensive Care Medicine, Sveti Duh University Hospital; Department of Anesthesiology, Resuscitation, Intensive Medicine and Pain Therapy, Faculty of Medicine in Osijek, Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek; and European Airway Management Society (EAMS). The Congress topic was *The Airway from the Perspective of Various Medical Professions*.

Safe and effective airway management improves patient safety. Anesthesiologists are well recognized as the most qualified experts in the field of airway management but this does not exclude others if dedicated to the same airway management quality. In the last decades, enormous efforts have been invested in creating and implementing standards and guidelines of safe and effective airway management in different situations of anticipated and unanticipated difficult airway. Moreover, in the last years, strong consensus has been achieved among airway experts that non-technical skills, in particular team work and good communication in the airway team, are as important as airway technical skills.

The COVID-19 pandemic has made a storm in our lives and imposed enormous new challenges in all human fields including airway management. All airway management techniques have been on the list of aerosol-generating procedures, which makes the airway operator at a high risk of being infected himself by SARS-CoV-2. In addition, many health professionals, even without previous airway management experience, have found themselves in sudden situations of making and implementing clinical decisions on airway management in hypoxic patients with COVID-19 in an invasive and noninvasive manner. Luckily, we have adapted to the challenging situation quickly and effectively because we have worked in teams and upgraded our communication in virtual when it was necessary. However, despite new virtual reality, we have stayed eager for the exchange of our clinical experiences in live interaction during lectures, oral presentations, and workshops at physical congresses.

After two years of the COVID -19 pandemic and four years of our last Croatian Congress of Airway Management, the 4<sup>th</sup> Croatian Congress of Airway Management with International Participation was again a scientific hub of gathering health professionals from various medical professions who, in their daily work, encounter airway management and possibly difficult airway management. Some of their works are presented in this issue after being double-reviewed and professional language edited. I hope you will enjoy reading the presented manuscripts.

Guest Editor

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