College releases NAP3 application for iPhone™
The iNAP3 app

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The College has launched its first iPhone™ application (app) which is aimed at bringing the results of the 3rd National Audit Project (NAP3) of the Royal College of Anaesthetists, major complications of central neuraxial block in the UK, to the bedside.

The app was written by Dr Tim Cook, the College lead for NAP3, and designed by Tristan Heal and Dan Low of iMobilemedic, the company behind the logbook app 'iGaslog', as well as the guideline apps 'iResus' and 'iDAS'. Several NAP3 authors kindly agreed to include edited version of their contributions.

A recent survey (paper in progress) suggests NAP3 has been effectively disseminated, and has changed the practice of more than 50% of anaesthetic departments and 50% of individual anaesthetists. Whilst NAP3 generated risk estimates for specific central neuraxial blocks and clinical indications stratified by degree of injury, this created a large set of numbers which can be difficult to keep at one's fingertips.
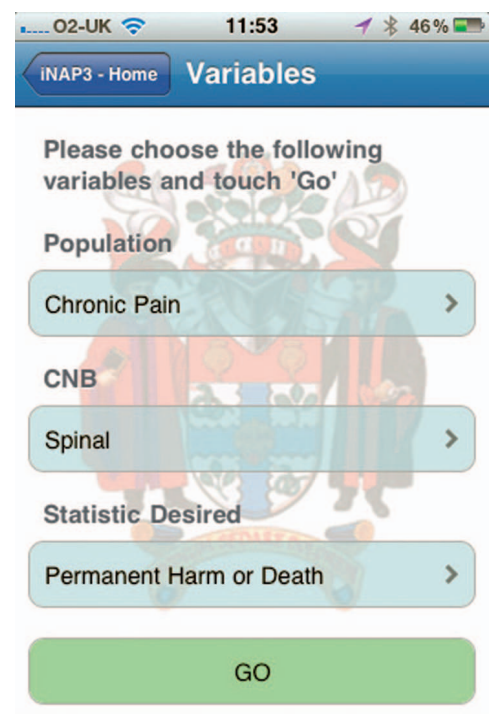
Features

The app's main feature is a calculator that enables the user to select:

➤ 'population': from peri-operative, obstetric, chronic pain or paediatric

➤ 'type of block': from epidural, spinal, CSE, or caudal

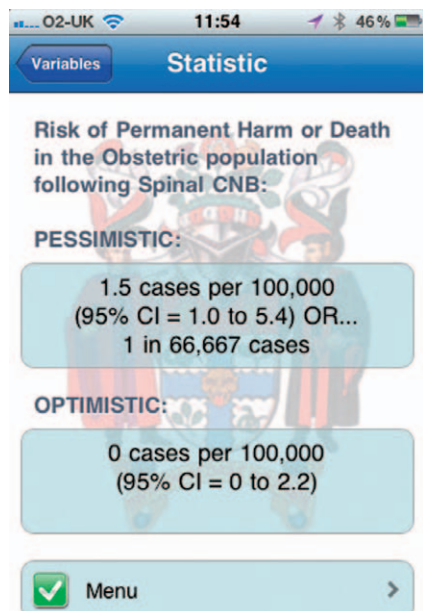➤ 'statistic required': from permanent harm and death, paraplegia and death or death.
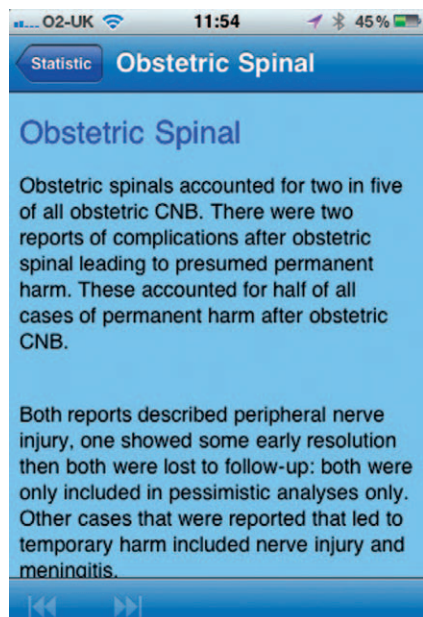
iNAP3: Home screen

iNAP3: Select your variables
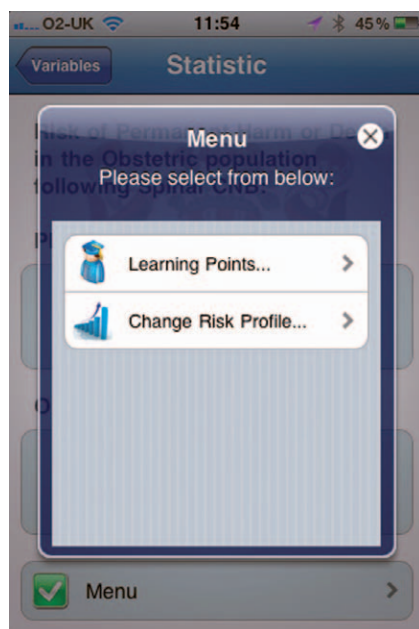
iNAP3: Incidence statistics

iNAP3: Summarised findings

The app then displays the estimated incidence of complications. These are presented both as pessimistic or optimistic estimates with confidence intervals, and in the formats 'x per 100,000' and '1 in xx,000'.

Finding this specific estimate takes less than 10 seconds, and gives the user immediate access to accurate information, enabling improved communication to even the most demanding patient. The information should also help to inform any risk:benefit analysis.

The app also has narrative summaries on the findings of the report. These include 31 narratives summarising the findings of the NAP3 report by clinical indication, by type of block, by types of complications, and including algorithms for the management of weak legs (in other words suspected haematoma or abscess). The main learning points in the NAP3 report are also presented as an abridged executive summary.

Finally, the app contains hyperlinks to the original paper published in the *British Journal of Anaesthesia*, and to the NAP3 site of the RCoA website, both of which enable further free information downloads.

iNAP3: Links to the *BJA* and *RCoA*

The app is aimed to be an educational tool and is provided free by the College. The authors hope that the NAP3 app will be of use in further disseminating the results of NAP3, and by enabling accurate communication with patients. We would welcome comments from users, both negative as well as positive, providing they are constructive!

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iNAP3: The risk calculator links to directed learning points