MULTIMEDIA REVIEW

Article 990224

“ThinkSpine – the Management of Spinal Cord Injuries. Module 1: Accident Scene, Patient Transport and Emergency Department Handover”. Interactive DVD.
Monash University Department of Community Emergency Health and Paramedic Practice. 2005. RRP \$A165.00

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Potential spinal injury is a frequent problem with which ambulance personnel at all levels are presented. “ThinkSpine” is an educational DVD aimed at pre-hospital health care providers and produced by a collaboration of Australians involved in all areas of pre-hospital and emergency care.

“ThinkSpine” is a very professionally presented DVD which aims and largely succeeds in covering the basics of spinal immobilisation techniques. The video scenarios which form the ‘meat’ of the DVD are supplemented by instructions regarding the use of different types of spinal immobilisation devices (some with videos). There is a brief discussion regarding mechanisms of spinal cord injury (SCI), anatomy and physiology as well as some self-test MCQ. Notably, the frequently asked question section uses a large evidence base to address many of the controversies in the treatment of patients with potential for SCI.

Training provides two levels of skills and two assessment streams:

- Onsite Management Assessment - for First Responders and Level 2 First-Aiders, and;
- Onsite Management and Transport/ Handover Assessment – for advanced users e.g. Paramedics, Nurses, Doctors etc.

An optional testing process consists of three phases:

- Pre-test Assessment
- Post-test Assessment
- Retention Assessment

Improvements could be made in a few areas: There is no explanation for the answers to the MCQ. Some of the video demonstrations of application techniques do not follow the written instructions in detail. The video scenarios have a fast and detailed run option; however, the text that accompanies this is not initially obvious. Whilst the

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DVD is largely intuitive to run (and comes with a quickstartup), it is not initially obvious where to find the video scenarios. It would be helpful to have these included on the main menu.

“ThinkSpine” will be a very useful addition to the library of those involved in the education and training of prehospital and emergency health care providers.

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