

<http://www.jet5.com/wiki>

October 2008

Introduction

Welcome to the SCATA wiki. A communal resource for the benefit of all Anaesthetists, created and hosted by SCATA.

SCATA

The Society for Computing and Technology in Anaesthesia



<http://www.scata.org.uk>

A screenshot of a web browser window showing the SCATA Anaesthesia Wiki page for Lignocaine (lidocaine). The browser title is 'SCATA Anaesthesia Wiki - Mozilla Firefox'. The address bar shows 'http://www.jet5.com/wiki/index.php'. The page content includes a navigation menu (Home, About, Register, Copyright, Contact), a search box, and a list of found topics (Local Anaesthetic Agents, Ropivacaine, Lignocaine (lidocaine), Epidural). The main article for Lignocaine (lidocaine) is displayed, including its description as the original amide local anesthetic introduced in 1944, its structure as a tertiary amine, and its uses in local anesthesia and pain relief. The page footer shows 'Topics 4 Paragraphs 6 Mappings 10 Images 2 Tags 11 Tag mappings 10 © SCATA 2008 Page views 1067'.

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Summary

Who is it for? Full browsing and searching are available to anybody. Contributions (both new entries and edits) can only be performed by registered users. The registration procedures are designed to protect the wiki from abuse, so registration can only be granted to practicing anaesthetists attached to an institution where one user has been accepted as a local administrator by the SCATA wiki group.

As with all wikis – any contributions you make are being offered up for communal editing. You should not be upset if your carefully crafted words are mercilessly rearranged, corrected, and added to. If any such activity is destructive and an abuse of the wiki concept then we can quickly ban such a user, but otherwise the wiki thrives and grows on a running ferment of inputs and edits.

There are some important differences between this wiki and other wikis that you may have used. The basic structure consists of Topics which are ordered sets of Paragraphs. These Paragraphs are reusable and may belong to any number of Topics. Paragraphs can have any number of Tags. Tags are labels which are used to provide high level structure, and search functions. Users are able to create their own tags, which become available to all other users.

“Reusable paragraphs” addresses a problem with any anaesthesia notes system or textbook – exactly where does a particular piece of information go? Does a section on “LA toxicity” go under “Local Anaesthetic Drugs” or “Anaesthetic Emergencies” or “Pharmacology”? In traditional wikis it is placed in one of these, and hyperlinks take you there from the other two sections. This can have the unfortunate effect of interrupting a train of thought. Reusable paragraphs allow the same paragraph to be in all three Topics simultaneously, and indeed can be easily added to any relevant Topic. You can still surf (ie hop from Topic to Topic) if you wish to using the shared paragraph / tag system.

Registering with the SCATA Wiki.

Although you can simply go to the site and browse, you must register and sign-in to add or edit any of the information. The Registration Form requires some basic information including your current hospital or other place of work. This allows us to confirm your identity – should we need to – and greatly assists us in keeping spammers out of the wiki. Your registration details (including email addresses) will not be shared with any third parties.

Forgotten Password

If you forget your password, click on the ‘Forgotten Password’ link on the top right, and you will see the following form



The screenshot shows the PASS Anaesthesia logo at the top left. Below it, the word "Email" is followed by a text input field. To the right of the input field are two buttons: "Email me a new password" and "Close".

Enter the email address you put in when you registered, click on ‘Email me a new password’, and a new password will be immediately emailed to that address. Some email providers (eg Hotmail) have very strict anti-spam systems which block many automated emails. If the email does not arrive, click on the ‘Contact’ button and let us know and we will email you manually. If possible use an alternative email address other than Hotmail for the PASS system.

Topics

It is possible simply to create and write Topics (as collections of headed paragraphs), adding paragraphs as you go. The Topic titles are searchable, and this in fact would work reasonably well. However the use of Reusable Paragraphs helps to prevent duplication of information, and the use of Tags gives structure and more effective searching.

Adding a new Topic

Although this is very straightforward, it is important that the Topic being added does not already exist. Once you have searched, and confirmed that your Topic is indeed a new Topic, you type the topic title into the New Topic part of the home page and click on “Add”.

Your Topic is added, and a single summary Paragraph with the same title as the Topic is automatically created and added to the Topic. These remain linked – if anybody edits the Topic title, the summary Paragraph title is also changed.

You control the Topic structure in the Topic Builder. On entering this section, you get exclusive access to the Topic structure for 20 minutes (or until you leave the Topic Builder). This prevents two people trying to manipulate the Structure simultaneously.

Reusable paragraphs

These solve the age-old problem of exactly where a piece of data should go – simply put it in more than one topic. The process of doing this is straightforward, on the screen where you add a new paragraph, you also have a paragraph browser. The idea is that you first look to see if the paragraph you are about to contribute has been written already – in which case you add it to the Topic, and can edit it if you wish. If you can't find an already-written paragraph then add a new one.

Reusable paragraphs mean that universal concepts, ie those important to many areas of anaesthesia, get more exposure by appearing in many topics, and are consistently presented. Educationally this has got to be a good thing.

Perhaps the Tag browser should be sorted by how often tags are used – so that universal concepts get listed first. (Currently alphabetical).

Adding a new Paragraph to a Topic

This is done in the Topic Builder. Once the paragraph is added you are automatically taken to the Paragraph editor. Here you can edit the title, add or remove Tags, enter or edit text, set a graphic and control the paragraph layout.

As with the Topic Builder, you have exclusive editing access to a Paragraph for 20 minutes. Please remember to exit this section when you are finished, which will immediately release the Paragraph for others to edit.

Each paragraph can have a single graphic – to the right or left of the text. Each paragraph can include – in its text – a single internet link (as <http://www.website.com>) which will be rendered as a clickable link within the body of the text (ie the user does not have to type any markup to provide this function).

Apart from these two examples, layout is text only. The content itself is king here, and layout, fonts etc are imposed consistently throughout the WIKI.

Tags

A paragraph is tagged by clicking on as many tags as are relevant in the tag browser. Tags can be general (Pharmacology, Society), more specific (Anaesthetic vapours), or have specific user-group relevance (SCATA). Users can add new tags to the list.

Tags provide a fluid second level of structure which works well for searching and grouping topics.

Searching

Currently uses two strategies on the text-string entered. Both are case-insensitive and partial-word. Multiple words are treated as a phrase rather than individually. The result is displayed as a clickable list of Topics.

1. Searching Topic or Paragraph titles. Where a paragraph title produces a match, all Topics which include this paragraph are returned.
2. Searching Tag titles. A match returns the tagged paragraph, all Topics which include this paragraph are then returned.

Possible additions are full-text searching, or Boolean operations. In my experience the former is too fine grained (particularly with partial word searches), and the latter actually seldom used.