

Conference Proceedings

## NASCON 2024 Proceedings

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**Abstract** - This article summarizes the proceedings of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference of Neonatal Anesthesia Society (NAS), held in physical mode on July 27, 2024, and July 28, 2024, along with preconference workshops.

### NASCON 2024

The 3<sup>rd</sup> National Conference of the Neonatal Anesthesia Society was held for the first time in physical mode on July 27, 2024, and July 28, 2024. The theme of NASCON 2024 was gastrointestinal, hepatobiliary, and renal surgeries-anesthetic challenges, an unexplored yet critical subject for an anesthesiologist, after the previous year's theme – Cardiopulmonary and Vascular system. Total registrations were 210, 110 for the Conference and 110 delegates for the workshops.

The idea of conducting pre-conference workshops in the preceding weeks at different institutes was welcomed by the delegates in 2023 and hence was continued this year too on the 14<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, and 21<sup>st</sup> of July 2024, the aim being to make it convenient for local candidates to benefit from the workshops without need for long travel and absence from work and patient care. Seven workshops on three topics were conducted.

1. Neonatal Airway Management at (i) PGIMER Chandigarh, (ii) Dr. RMLH, Delhi, and (iii) Pt. JNMCC, Raipur.
2. Perioperative Neonatal Resuscitation at (i) AIIMS Nagpur and (ii) CNBC Delhi.
3. Neonatal Hemodynamic Monitoring at (i) PGIMER Chandigarh.

The unique features of NASCON 2024 were as follows:

- a. Conducted on a physical platform allowing better interaction between members.
- b. Excellent academic exchange - Knowledge-filled talks, panel discussions, posters, and free paper presentations.

- c. Quiz - A live event that was well executed, innovatively conducted, and thoroughly enjoyed by participants and delegates, challenging for one and all.
- d. Workshops on important topics at six centers, thereby catering to a diverse group of medical fraternity, including pediatricians, neonatologists, anesthesiologists, and technical staff.
- e. Dr. Usha Saha Oration - The first ever oration was delivered by Dr. Usha Saha on Workplace Ethics and Conflicts.
- f. Several awards were initiated at NASCON 2024.
- g. Seven members contributed to various awards and mementos.
  1. Dr. Anita Malik award for Best Free Paper.
  2. Dr. Usha Saha oration.
  3. Lt Sh. Karan Singh Jasrotia Best Poster Award started by Dr. Arti Rajput in the name of her father (two candidates) – Dr. Ranju Gandhi and Dr. Gaurang Kothari Award for the winning Quiz Team. (two members).
  4. Dr. Snehalata Dhayagude sponsored the NASCON 2024 souvenir in the conference kit.
  5. Dr. Rajeshwari Subramaniam sponsored mementos and certificates of NASCON 2024.

Inauguration ceremony: the first issue of the Journal of Neonatal Critical Care and Anaesthesia (JNCCA) was unraveled at the inauguration ceremony with the stalwarts of Neonatal anesthesia. It was followed by an address by the guest of honor, Dr. Snehalata Dhayagude, who is a well-renowned and respected senior pediatric anesthesiologist. The inauguration ceremony ended with the Dr. Usha Saha Oration, which was very inspiring and thought provoking for the audience and well appreciated.

Posters presented at the conference: There were 13 entries that were grouped into two sessions.

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Session 1 (airway related) - Seven posters were presented.

1. Anesthetic management of a very preterm neonate with choanal atresia for bronchoscopy and laparoscopic gastrostomy – Dr. K. C. Deepika (Resident, MS Ramaiah Medical College, Bengaluru).
2. Bifid epiglottis in a syndromic neonate: A case report – Dr. Vaishali (Resident, ABVIMS and Dr. RML Hospital, New Delhi).
3. A rare case of glial heterotopia presenting as an oropharyngeal mass causing airway obstruction in a neonate – Dr. R. Mahesh (Resident, ABVIMS and Dr. RML Hospital, New Delhi).
4. Perioperative management considerations for congenital syngnathia: A multidisciplinary approach – Dr. H. D. Leshinai Agnes Poumai (Resident, AIIMS, New Delhi).
5. Anesthetic management of neonate with congenital high airway obstruction syndrome – Dr. Prajith Bhaskaran (Resident, ABVIMS and Dr. RML Hospital, New Delhi).
6. Tackling airway obstacles in a neonate afflicted by cystic hygroma – Dr. Sarath Kumar (Resident, Pediatric Anesthesia, PGIMER, Chandigarh).
7. A case of congenital tracheal stenosis in a late preterm baby: Anesthetist's nightmare – Dr. Harsimran Manchanda (Resident, SGPGL, Lucknow).

Session 2 (non-airway) - Six posters were presented.

1. Neonate with Pierre Robin sequence posted for diagnostic bronchoscopy and feeding gastrostomy – regional versus general anesthesia – treading on thin ice!! – Dr. Nayana Sabu (Resident, AIIMS, Nagpur).
2. Empowering neonatal care: ECMO assistant in arterial switch operation – Dr. Amit Kumar Jain (Resident, Cardiac anesthesia, ABVIMS and Dr. RML Hospital, New Delhi).
3. Navigating the equi-oxygenated chambers of total anomalous pulmonary venous connection: an anesthetic odyssey – Dr. Priyanka Patel (Resident, Cardiac anesthesia, ABVIMS and Dr. RML Hospital, New Delhi).
4. Transthoracic Echo, a handy perioperative tool for anesthesiologist: Impact and utility – Dr. Krishnaraj Pai (Resident, Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences, Faridabad).
5. Peri-operative management of a neonate with VACTERL Malformation Syndrome – Dr. Geeta Choudhary (Associate Professor, PGIMS, Rohtak).
6. Comparing opioid versus opioid-free anesthesia technique for extubation time in neonates undergoing infraumbilical surgeries – Dr. Abhinav Siroha (Resident, VMMC and Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi).

#### Free Paper Presentation

1. Three best papers out of five submitted were presented. Comparison of bowel distension between nitrous oxide based and nitrous oxide-free general anesthesia in

- neonates undergoing laparotomy – Dr. Mohit Mittal (Resident, VMMC and Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi).
2. Estimation of airway length in neonates using fiberoptic bronchoscopy – Dr. Rohit Kashyap (Resident, VMMC and Safdarjung Hospital New Delhi).
3. A single-center 13-month retrospective study of neonates undergoing surgery under general anesthesia – Dr. L. Supreet (Resident, VMMC and Safdarjung Hospital New Delhi).

Pro Con session: Three topics were discussed in this session.

1. Circle breathing systems should be used in neonates – Dr. Abhity Gulia (Pro), Dr. Sakshi Arora (Con).
  2. A cuffed endotracheal tube is the safest option in neonates – Dr. Deepika KC (Pro), Dr. Anisha Nagaria (Con).
  3. Opioid-free anesthesia is feasible in neonates – Dr. Barnali Chakraborty (Pro), Dr. Pratiksha Agarwal (Con).
- The winners of the poster presentation (Lt Sh Karan Singh Jasrotia Best Poster Award)  
Poster 1 - 1<sup>st</sup> prize- Dr. Vaishali.  
Poster 2 - 1<sup>st</sup> prize- Dr. Priyanka Patel.
  - The winner of Free paper (Dr. Anita Malik Award for Best Free Paper) 1<sup>st</sup> prize- Dr. Rohit Kashyap.
  - The winners of the Pro-Con session – Dr. Barnali Chakraborty (Pro) and Dr. Pratiksha Agrawal (Con).
  - The Final Quiz was held between three teams (chosen from six teams who entered the preliminary round) and the winners were Dr. Ranju Gandhi and Dr. Gaurang Kothari award for best team – Dr. Sarath Kumar and Dr. Vaishali from PGI Chandigarh.

#### General Board Meeting

GBM was held at the end of day 1 of NASCON 2024 between office bearers and all the life members of NAS. The meeting started with Secretary Dr. Nisha Kachru welcoming and thanking everyone who had attended. This was followed by a short address by Dr. Usha Saha President, who commended the efforts of all office bearers, members, technical team, and attendees in making the society rich and the conference successful.

The following issues were discussed and decisions taken:

1. Life membership of NAS is to be kept the same at Rs. 5000.
2. Next annual conference – AIIMS Nagpur volunteered to hold NASCON 2025. Dr. Amrisha Raipure and members of her team were introduced. – Dr. Avinash, Dr. Barkha, and Dr. Bhuvanewari.
3. Proposals were invited for NASCON -26. Dr. Pratibha Jain Shah and her team from JNMMC Raipur volunteered to host NASCON 2026.
4. It was suggested to change the dates for the annual conference to either the last weekend of August or the first weekend of September. Since AORA held their conference

at the end of August, it was decided that NASCON should be held on the first weekend of September.

5. Topics were discussed for the theme of next year's conference. Dr. Barkha suggested onco-anesthesia, neuroanesthesia, and critical care in neonates. Other suggestions included musculoskeletal system and regional anesthesia in neonates. The theme for the next conference was decided to be related to neuroanesthesia (brain and spine)
6. Apart from the present workshop themes –airway, PONR, and hemodynamic monitoring, suggestions were invited for other workshop topics. Communication, breaking bad news, medicolegal issues, and informed consent were suggested.
7. Dr. Raja from Hyderabad expressed his wish to have a workshop or conference with topics related to ophthalmology procedures for neonates. He expressed his wish to start a state chapter for NAS. He also showed interest in conducting a workshop in Hyderabad.
8. Dr. Usha Saha raised the issue of financial concerns related to the conduct of the workshops.
9. Dr. Bhuvaneshwari suggested that cadaveric workshops for regional anesthesia in neonates could be conducted at AIIMS Nagpur.
10. The meeting was concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Ranju Gandhi, and everyone headed for the conference dinner.

### **Ethical approval**

Institutional Review Board approval is not required.

### **Declaration of patient consent**

Patient's consent is not required as there are no patients in this study.

### **Financial support and sponsorship**

Nil.

### **Conflicts of interest**

There are no conflicts of interest.

### **Use of artificial intelligence (AI)-assisted technology for manuscript preparation**

The authors confirm that there was no use of artificial intelligence (AI)-assisted technology for assisting in the writing or editing of the manuscript and no images were manipulated using AI.

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