A229 - The experiences of ems providers taking part in a large randomised trial of airway management during out of hospital cardiac arrest, and the impact on their views and practice. results of a survey and telephone interviews

M Thomas 1; M Robinson 2; K Kirby 3; J Brandling 3; S Voss 3; J Benger 3
1Bristol Royal Infirmary, Intensive Care Unit, Bristol, United Kingdom, 2South West Ambulance Service, Exeter, United Kingdom, 3University of West of England, Bristol, United Kingdom

Introduction:
The aim is to explore EMS experiences of participating in a large trial of airway management during out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (AIRWAYS-2), specifically to explore:

1. Any changes in views and practice as a result of trial participation.
2. Experiences of trial training.
3. Experiences of enrolling critically unwell patients without consent.

Methods:
An online questionnaire was distributed to 1523 EMS providers who participated in the trial. In-depth telephone interviews explored the responses to the online questionnaire. Quantitative data were collated and presented using simple descriptive statistics. Qualitative data collected during the online survey were analysed using content analysis. An Interpretive Phenomenological Analysis approach was used for analysis of qualitative interview data.

Results:
Responses to the online questionnaire were received from 33% of AIRWAYS-2 study paramedics and 19 study paramedics were interviewed. Paramedics described barriers and facilitators to trial participation and changes in their views and practice.

The results are presented in five distinct themes: research process; changes in views and practice regarding airway management; engagement with research; professional identity; professional competence.

Conclusion:
Participation in the AIRWAYS-2 trial was enjoyable and EMS providers valued the training and study support. There was enhanced confidence in airway management as a result of taking part in the trial. Study paramedics expressed preference for the method of airway management to which they had been randomised. There was support for the stepwise approach to airway management, but also concern regarding the potential to lose tracheal intubation from ‘standard’ paramedic practice.