"ALEXA, WHAT'S AN EPIDURAL?" – AN INTELLIGENT VIRTUAL ASSISTANT PROTOTYPE FOR DELIVERING ANAESTHETIC INFORMATION TO PATIENTS

K Hoyland[1], M Sinnott[1], C Razavi[2], C Johnstone[2]
St Thomas' Hospital, London
[1] Anaesthetic SpR, [2] Anaesthetic Consultant

Introduction

- Artificial intelligence use is increasing exponentially
- Devices like Amazon Alexa present a unique, easy way to deliver information to patients
- Avoid the need for patients to be literate or perform time consuming research
- We aimed to develop a prototype Alexa skill to convey basic anaesthetic information to patients prior to childbirth



SCAN ME

SEE HOW IT SOUNDS!

Methods

- Alexa prototype built using Amazon Web Services (AWS) platform
- https://aws.amazon.com
- Produced questions and responses for Alexa enabled devices using OAA patient information leaflets
- Common questions asked by patients on pain relief options and caesarian sections
- Reconfigured into variations using lay person responses and consultation with midwives and obstetricians

Results

- Fully working prototype Alexa skill for obstetric anaesthesia and analgesia, pitched at patient level
- Alexa was able to answer the majority of questions asked by patients about anaesthetic services for labour and childbirth
- Improvements could be made to improve response ability by building in further variations to questions if tested on a greater scale

Discussion

- Virtual intelligence assistants have been underutilised by healthcare providers but are an effective source for patient information
- Able to standardise patient information and prevent patients being overwhelmed by incorrect information in google searches
- Wide breadth of information can be delivered via easily activated voice systems
- The system could be enabled and disseminated to patients at antenatal appointments by anaesthetists and midwives as a source of patient information