

Letter in Response to article 'Audit of paediatric Entonox use'

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In their letter to the editor 'Audit of paediatric Entonox use' (March 2023), Hayden and Neylon argue that there is great potential to increase Entonox use in the paediatric setting, describing it as a safe and convenient analgesic agent.

Entonox undoubtedly has its clinical uses, but we find it alarming that Hayden and Neylon fail to mention Entonox's enormous carbon footprint. In 2019, total emissions from Nitrous Oxide and Entonox use across all Irish hospitals amounted to 15 047 tonnes of CO₂ equivalents (pure N₂O: 42% and Entonox 58%). In the midst of a climate crisis, that is no laughing matter.

References:

1. Keady T, Nordrum OL, Duffy O, Cummins T, Wall V, Ó'Cróinín D, Lyons B. Annual greenhouse gas emissions from inhaled anaesthetic agents in the Republic of Ireland. *British Journal of Anaesthesia*. 2023 Jan 1;130(1):e13-6.