



Emergency oxygen
when you need it.™

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This brief is one in a series of non-technical articles that discuss bystander delivery of oxygen during breathing emergencies

If Only...

How often have you said, “if only”?

If only you had paid closer attention you wouldn't have missed that exit and wasted a half-hour of extra driving. If only you had learned to swim you would be more confident around water. If only you had remembered your friend's birthday you wouldn't be sending a belated wishes card.

Often, an “if only” may come and go with little consequences, but under some conditions an if only can mean a matter of life or death.



A Mid-Air Medical Emergency

Fifteen minutes before landing in San Antonio, Texas, eleven-month-old Nevaeh Flowers started to seizure in her mother's arms.^{i,ii,iii} The infant had a fever, she started foaming at her mouth, and her feet turned blue from lack of oxygen. Shocked and frightened, Nevaeh's mother called out for help.

Fortunately, responding fellow passengers included nurse Tiffany Lehman who rushed to assist the infant. Lehman noticed that the infant's tongue appeared to have blocked her throat and she wasn't breathing normally. Clearing the infant's airway, Lehman started first aid and Lehman's fiancée, also a healthcare professional, assisted with the administration of emergency oxygen^{iv} as anxious minutes passed.

On the ground, Nevaeh was taken to a hospital for evaluation until she was out of danger, and Nevaeh's mother was grateful for the actions taken in the air that helped save her daughter.

It may surprise you to know, however, that the kind of emergency response available miles above our heads is not readily available public place on the ground like malls, schools and pools.

The Role of Portable Emergency Oxygen

Over 7 million breathing emergencies occur every year. These breathing emergencies can be caused by a variety of events from over-exertion, to cardiac arrest, to seizures like the one suffered by infant Nevaeh. When breathing is interrupted, the body can quickly deplete the level of oxygen in the blood that is vital to health and life. In less than the final 15-minutes it took for Nevaeh's plane to land, a breathing emergency can lead to unconsciousness, coma and death.

Portable emergency oxygen has been in use for many years by specially-trained professionals like ambulance crews and as part of the medical kit secured on commercial aircraft. In these cases, the oxygen is contained in pressurized cylinders that may present a risk of rupture and fire. Because of these potential risks, conventional pressurized oxygen cylinders are not allowed to be stored where untrained people can access them.

A consequence of the need for specialized training and risk mitigation is that portable emergency oxygen has not been available for public use during breathing emergencies like infant Nevaeh's seizure – until now.

Thanks to the ground-breaking design of the R15 device, safe and effective portable emergency oxygen can be available in all public spaces. Cleared by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for use by untrained personnel, any bystander can now provide life-saving emergency oxygen. In just three simple steps, anyone can help victims of breathing emergencies with 100% oxygen. The R15 device continues to operate for at least 15 minutes - about twice the average time it takes emergency medical services to arrive after 911 is called.

Placing the R15 device in schools, malls, pools and other public places can **help avoid a serious “if only” moment** in the lives of everyone, everywhere.

To read more articles like this one please visit
<https://rapidoxygen.com/white-papers>

ⁱⁱ This Mom Says a 'Rock Star' Nurse Saved Her Baby's Life During a Seizure on a Plane, Korin Miller [online 6May19> <https://www.whattoexpect.com/news/first-year/nurse-saved-babys-life-seizure-plane/>

ⁱⁱ Mom Praises Airline Crew and Flyers for Saving Daughter's Life on Flight: They're 'Angels', People, Jason Duaine Hahn [online 6May19> <https://people.com/human-interest/janay-flowers-american-airlines-seizure/>

ⁱⁱⁱ Mother says nurse saved her baby's life on airplane: 'She's a rock star', Yahoo Lifestyle, Elise Solé [online 6May19> <https://www.yahoo.com/lifestyle/mother-says-nurse-saved-her-babys-life-on-airplane-shes-a-rock-star-182121054.html>

^{iv} Know What's in Airplane's Emergency Medical Kit, Two Pharmacists Say, ASHP, Cheryl Thompson [online 6May19> https://www.ashp.org/news/2015/01/13/know_what_s_in_airplane_s_emergency_medical_kit__two_pharmacists_say