Bonfils Fiberscope and McCoy Laryngoscope Equivalent in Simulated Difficult Intubations

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All intubations were successful with similar intubation times.

The Bonfils Intubation Fiberscope is a rigid optical stylet with a 40° curved tip onto which an endotracheal tube is loaded and passed through the cords via direct visualization with an eyepiece or video monitor. The McCoy laryngoscope is a direct laryngoscope, similar to a standard Macintosh, with a hinged tip that can lift the epiglottis via a lever on the laryngoscope handle. Researchers in Singapore randomized 60 healthy adult elective surgery patients to intubation by trained operators using either the McCoy or Bonfils device. A cervical collar was placed on each patient to simulate a difficult intubation.

All intubations were successful. The two groups had similar first-attempt intubation success rates, intubation times, and adverse event rates. A bougie was needed to facilitate intubation for 60% of patients in the McCoy group, whereas no intubation-facilitating maneuvers were needed in the Bonfils group.

Comment: For operators who are equally facile with both a fiberscope and direct laryngoscopy, the devices performed similarly in a simulated difficult intubation. Operators should select the device with which they have the most experience.

Citation(s):


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