

# Direct Versus Video Laryngoscopy for Foreign Body Removal

*A cadaver study with novice operators shows a higher success rate with the direct laryngoscope.*

Video-assisted laryngoscopes have revolutionized difficult and routine airway management. These authors compared the GlideScope and the standard Macintosh laryngoscope for removal of a hypopharyngeal foreign body.

Twenty-eight second-year emergency medicine residents with minimal experience in foreign body extraction were recruited from an airway management course in Korea and given several hours of training and practice with the devices. Each participant then used both the GlideScope and the Macintosh laryngoscope with Magill and ring forceps, in random order, to remove a piece of sausage placed just above the vocal cords of a lightly embalmed (i.e., lifelike) cadaver. Overall, the foreign body was removed successfully in 63% of GlideScope attempts versus 100% of Macintosh attempts.

**Comment:** For intubation, a camera placed at the end of the laryngoscope may be the ideal tool. But this study suggests that finding and removing a foreign body may be easier under direct visualization, at least for novice operators.

— [Daniel J. Pallin, MD, MPH](#)

Published in [Journal Watch Emergency Medicine](#) October 19, 2012

## Citation(s):

Je SM et al. Comparison of GlideScope® versus Macintosh laryngoscope for the removal of a hypopharyngeal foreign body: A randomized cross-over cadaver study. *Resuscitation* 2012 Oct; 83:1277.

- [Medline abstract](#) (Free)