

CS#13

Success of Orotracheal Intubation with the Airtraq Optical Laryngoscope in Patients with Difficult Conventional Laryngoscopy.

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312 patients for elective **thyroid surgical procedures** with various conventional laryngoscopic views. **Further 20 patients** with difficult conventional laryngoscopy (CL) also for elective thyroid surgery attempted by using the AOL were additionally included in this clinical review.

In the 332 patients evaluated, **grade 1 to 5 at CL was obtained in 111, 90, 61, 68, and 2 patients, respectively.** The overall success rate of AOL-assisted tracheal intubation at the **first attempt was 98 percent; in all patients, tracheal intubation was successful after a maximum of two attempts.**

In the 70 patients with difficult CL (grade 4 or 5), the success rate of AOL-assisted tracheal intubation at the first attempt was 94 percent (66/70 patients). The causes of primary failures of tracheal intubation were failed identification of anatomical structures (in one patient) and failed tracheal tube (TT) advancement during laryngeal passage (in 3 patients). Visualization of the entire laryngeal aperture was finally obtained in all patients; downsized TTs for atraumatic tracheal intubation were required in 2 patients.