

CS# 47

The Use of Airtraq in an Alternate Teaching Approach to Learning Direct Laryngoscopy

Pilot Study

Vanessa Ng MD Tracey Straker MD - Montefiore Medical Center USA

Endotracheal intubation is a fundamental psychomotor skill essential to the field of anesthesiology. Teaching intubation usually involves a laryngoscope, blades, endotracheal tubes, and verbal instruction from a teacher. With these limitations we hypothesize that an initial exposure to endotracheal intubation with the Airtraq, a rigid optical device adapted to a camera system, may improve the technique and speed of acquiring direct laryngoscopy skills.

For the first three weeks of a month long mentoring program, the new CA-1 resident was taught to intubate using only Airtraq.

The final week of mentorship, the CA-1 was given a laryngoscope with a MAC 3 blade and taught the technique for direct laryngoscopy. **The transition from Airtraq to direct laryngoscopy was seamless.** The resident and the attending were able to communicate in medical language regarding the anatomy of the airway. **If the resident was experiencing difficulty, communication about troubleshooting the problem was accurate because the resident knew the anatomy.**