

MS#5

Airtraq vs standard laryngoscopy by student paramedics and experienced prehospital laryngoscopists managing a model of difficult intubation*

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The first of two studies reported in this paper aimed to determine whether use of the Airtraq by pre-employment third-year student paramedics resulted in improved intubation success rates compared with standard laryngoscopy in a manikin model of a Cormack and Lehane grade III/IV laryngoscopic view.

The second study compared the intubation success rates of experienced prehospital laryngoscopists when managing the same model of a difficult intubation using either an Airtraq or a Macintosh laryngoscope.

The studies reported in this paper have demonstrated that, **in a manikin model of difficult intubation, both student paramedics and experienced prehospital laryngoscopists rate the Airtraq as significantly easier to use than a Macintosh laryngoscope with a malleable stylet after minimal additional training.**

Both groups achieved significantly higher first-time intubation success rates and significantly fewer failed and oesophageal intubations with the Airtraq device.