To the Editor:—We read with interest the study by van Zundert et al. regarding performance characteristics of three disposable extraglottic airways. van Zundert found that the CobraPLA (Engineered Medical Systems, Indianapolis, IN) was more difficult to insert and caused more mucosal trauma than either the LMA-UniQue™ (LMA North America Inc., San Diego, CA) or the Soft Seal laryngeal mask (Portex Ltd., Hythe, United Kingdom), noting that this finding is in contrast to previous studies conducted by Gaitini et al. and Akca et al. He attributes this difference, in part, to the fact that the patients in Akca’s study were paralyzed. However, Akca’s patients were not relaxed before insertion of the devices studied. As an alternative, we suggest that van Zundert’s more precisely defined ease of insertion (3/2/1/0 vs. difficult/not difficult), along with a greater number of patients studied (105 patients vs. 40 patients studied each by Gaitini and Akca) might have allowed a statistical difference to emerge. Although the CobraPLA has a flexible tip to aid insertion at the back of the throat, we believe that CobraPLA’s straight breathing tube might have contributed to the insertion difficulty (fig. 1A).

As a result of our own experience using the CobraPLA in several hundred patients and at our suggestion, the manufacturer (Engineered Medical Systems) has modified the basic design of the device to incorporate a distal bend in the breathing tube on both the standard CobraPLA and the newly introduced CobraPLUS (figs. 1B and C) while leaving the other features of the airway (e.g., flexible tip, circumferential cuff) unchanged. The decision to accomplish this design change was driven in part by discussions with Dr. van Zundert while his study was in progress (although actual results were not known) regarding how the device might logically be improved to aid insertion. As a result of this modification, the specific product studied by van Zundert is no longer being manufactured. We believe the curved distal end greatly facilitates insertion and minimizes trauma because it now conforms to the shape of the anatomy it must traverse, and initial reports with its use have been encouraging (Xavier Marquez, M.D., Instituto Urologoico, Caracas, Venezuela, personal communication, April 2006).

The fact that the basic design of the CobraPLA studied by van Zundert is no longer being manufactured in no way diminishes the importance of his study. Rather, we believe it validates how respected researchers can help to drive product design for improved patient safety. The improved performance characteristics of the newly changed CobraPLA, require validation by additional research. We have sent the newly designed CobraPLA to Dr. van Zundert and would be interested to learn his initial impressions.

David Alfery, M.D., Peter Szmuk, M.D.* University of Texas Southwestern Medical School and Anesthesiologists for Children at Children’s Medical Center Dallas, Dallas, Texas, and OUTCOMES RESEARCH INSTITUTE, Louisville, Kentucky. pszmuk@gmail.com

References


(Received for publication October 25, 2006.)

In Reply:—We thank Drs. Alfery and Szmuk for their positive comments about our article. In many countries, the use of extraglottic devices equals that of tracheal intubation. It is imperative that all new extraglottic devices undergo carefully conducted clinical trials to determine their safety and efficacy versus the current standard, the laryngeal mask airway, which has been extensively used and studied. Data that has been collected about one extraglottic device need not necessarily apply to another. Our study was probably one of many factors that resulted in the decision to redesign the CobraPLA (Engineered Medical Systems Inc., Indianapolis, IN). The new version, the CobraPLUS, seems to be easier to insert and the integral temperature probe is a nice feature, but this requires confirmation. That industry responded to our article is encouraging.


Dr. Alfery is the inventor of the CobraPLA and the CobraPLUS (Engineered Medical Systems, Indianapolis, Indiana) and receives royalties on sales.
To the Editor.—I read with interest the review article of Dr. Mauermann and Dr. Nemergut about the anesthesiologist’s role in preventing surgical site infection (SSI). The authors deal with hypothermia and write, “The incidence of SSI was 5.8% in the normothermic group and 18.8% in the hypothermic group. The patients who developed SSIs required hospital stays nearly 1 week longer than those who did not develop a SSI, indicating that these were clinically significant complications” (italics added).

They also review the role of hyperoxia to reduce SSI and write, “Both of these studies found statistically significant reductions in the rates of SSIs in the 0.8 fraction of inspired oxygen (FiO₂) group versus the 0.3 FiO₂ group.” They correctly cite the two studies²,³ that found that 80% oxygen could halve surgical site infection versus 30% oxygen; they also cite another study⁴ that found that 80% oxygen increased surgical site infection versus 35%. But surprisingly, they do not report whether the impressive reduction in SSI using 80% oxygen found in those two studies reduced clinically significant complications.

Greif et al.⁷ report a 54% relative risk reduction of SSI using 80% versus 30% oxygen. However, patients who received 80% oxygen had 12.2 days of hospitalization versus 11.9 days among those who received 30% oxygen. Moreover, no difference was found for time to first solid food intake or staples removed.

Belda et al.⁵ report a 59% relative risk reduction of SSI using 80% versus 30% oxygen. Again, consistently with the lack of clinically significant benefit, there was no difference in days of hospitalization, time to solid food intake, or staples removed.

The authors conclude that “...high inspired oxygen levels in the perioperative period confers some benefit in reducing the incidence of SSIs.” They do not report, however, the lack of clinically significant benefit.

In contrast with these results, Pryor et al.³ did find clinically significant harm among patients who received 80% oxygen (longer hospital stay, higher reoperation rate). This study, the lack of clinical benefit in the other two studies, and the inexistence of data evaluating more moderate oxygen concentrations (45–60%)⁷ should prevent anesthesiologists from accepting 80% as the ideal perioperative oxygen concentration to improve surgery outcomes.

Gonzalo Tornero-Camello, M.D., Hospital General Universitario de Elche, Elche, Alicante, Spain. gtorcam@hotmail.com

References

1. Mauermann WJ, Nemergut EC: The anesthesiologist’s role in the prevention of surgical site infection. ANESTHESIOLOGY 2006; 105:413–21

In Reply.—We appreciate the interest of Dr. Tornero-Camello in the anesthesiologist’s role in the prevention of surgical site infections (SSIs). Further, we note his repeated contention that the duration of hospitalization is a more appropriate outcome measure than the incidence of infection is been published in letters to multiple journals.¹–⁵

Our objectives in preparing this article³ were to produce an evidence-based, timely, concise, and clinically relevant document to educate practicing anesthesiologists regarding the best approaches to reducing surgical site infections. We believe that there is sufficient evidence to suggest that normobaric hyperoxia reduces the incidence of SSI in colorectal surgery.⁶,⁷ Nevertheless, Dr. Tornero-Camello’s focus on hospital duration of stay as an outcome measure allows us to reexamine these data in greater detail.

Dr. Tornero-Camello notes that one study⁷ that included a heterogeneous population of patients undergoing major abdominal surgery did not show a benefit of hyperoxia and may have been associated with an increase in morbidity and in the duration of hospitalization. It is extremely important to note that criticism of this study has been significant. For example, variables such as anesthetic technique, fluid management, and pain management were not controlled.⁸,⁹ Information on blood glucose control, strongly associated with the incidence of SSI, was not included.¹⁰ The small sample size and statistical analysis has not held up to rigorous post hoc examination.¹¹ Although patients were prospectively randomized to their perioperative oxygen group, the presence of SSI was determined by retrospective chart review.⁸,⁹ as we note in our article. It is imperative that we consider these methodologic flaws when we weigh the results of this study. Last, it would seem intuitive that if hyperoxia did confer an increase risk of ‘clinically significant harm,’ some hint of this risk would have been evident in the two larger studies by Greif et al.³ and Belda et al.⁵

Fauls with the above study aside, we concede that the use of hyperoxia was not associated with a decrease in the duration of hospitalization in either of the two studies cited in our review.⁵,⁶ Nevertheless, we reject Dr. Tornero-Campello’s assertion that the prevention of SSI is only significant if it results in a tenable “difference in
Use of Continuous Positive Airway Pressure in Anesthetized Infants

To the Editor.—The suggestion has been made that “The application of CPAP [continuous positive airway pressure] . . . may be crucial to help maintain airway patency in anesthetized infants.”1 Before this suggestion can be applied, there is additional crucial information that must be obtained. The effect of CPAP on respiratory control in the awake state may be quite different than that in the anesthetized state. As the authors have pointed out, infants are dependent on neural input for airway maintenance. However, no data have been presented about the effect of loss of neural input (i.e., the anesthetized state) and its effect on control of respiration in the presence of CPAP. End-tidal carbon dioxide increased from 41 to 46 mmHg in the study with increasing depth of propofol anesthesia, with “no further change resulting from the application of CPAP.” If ventilation is depressed and there is an increase in dead space ventilation (Vd/Vt) due to decreased tidal volume, end-tidal carbon dioxide may not change when in fact arterial carbon dioxide tension is increasing. One can see this unchanged or decreased end-tidal carbon dioxide when CPAP is applied to a spontaneously breathing patient anesthetized with an inhalation agent. In the exhaled breaths after the release of CPAP applied for only a minute or so, there is a large outpouring of carbon dioxide. Studies of CPAP in spontaneously breathing infants should include data on arterial carbon dioxide tension.

Peter Rothstein, M.D., Columbia University, New York. ptr1@columbia.edu

Reference

1. Crawford MW, Rohan D, Macgowan CK, Yoo SJ, Macpherson BA. Effect of propofol anesthesia and continuous positive airway pressure on upper airway size and configuration in infants. Anesthesiology 2006; 105:45–50 (Accepted for publication November 15, 2006.)
considered it neither relevant to the study hypothesis nor ethically justifiable to perform arterial puncture for blood gas analysis in our infant subjects. Given the relatively brief duration of CPAP application, any increase in arterial carbon dioxide tension was likely small; indeed, after removal of CPAP, we observed no outpouring of carbon dioxide as determined by end-tidal measurement.

Mark W. Crawford, M.B.B.S., F.R.C.P.C.,* Denise Rohan, M.B.B.Ch, F.F.A.R.C.S.I., Christopher K. Macgowan, Ph.D., Shi-Joon Yoo, M.D., F.R.C.P.C., Bruce A. Macpherson, M.D., F.R.C.P.† The Hospital for Sick Children, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. mark.crawford@sickkids.ca

References

(Accepted for publication November 15, 2006.)
To the Editor—I read with interest the case report of Dr. Rosenblatt et al.1 about a presumed bupivacaine-related cardiac arrest after the injection of 40 ml local anesthetic solution for interscalene brachial plexus blockade.

The authors write that “The electrocardiogram showed asystole . . .”; subsequently, tracheal intubation was performed, and during 20 min of cardiac life support, 3 mg epinephrine, 2 mg atropine, 300 mg amiodarone, and 40 U arginine vasopressin were administered. They also used monophasic defibrillation at escalating energy levels of 200, 300, 360, and 360 J. According to the text, “Cardiac rhythms included ventricular tachycardia with a pulse, pulseless ventricular tachycardia that momentarily became ventricular fibrillation, and eventually asystole. The arrhythmias observed during most of the resuscitation period were pulseless ventricular tachycardia and asystole.”

Current guidelines for the use of monophasic defibrillation recommend the use of 360 J for the initial and subsequent shocks, because of the lower efficacy of this waveform2 (if compared with biphasic defibrillation); the authors used 200 J.

The arrhythmias most often observed were pulseless ventricular tachycardia and asystole, the latter being a “nonshockable rhythm.” Moreover, current guidelines explicitly recommend not to defibrillate if there is doubt about whether the rhythm is asystole or fine ventricular fibrillation.3 It is also recommended to use a single shock strategy followed by immediate resumption of chest compressions.4 However, the authors report having used repeated attempts to defibrillate the patient, even after 20 min of cardiac arrest; did they attempt to defibrillate asystole?

The cardiac rhythm fortunately returned to sinus after a lipid emulsion4 followed by immediate resumption of chest compressions.5 However, the authors report having used repeated attempts to defibrillate the patient, even after 20 min of cardiac arrest; did they attempt to defibrillate asystole?

The cardiac rhythm fortunately returned to sinus after a lipid emulsion was given intravenously, and in the end, the patient had no neurologic sequelae, but was the advanced cardiac support optimum?

Gonzalo Tornero-Campello, M.D., Hospital General Universitario de Elche, Elche, Alicante, Spain. gtorcam@hotmail.com

References


(Accepted for publication November 15, 2006.)
Lipid Rescue from Bupivacaine Cardiac Arrest: A Result of Failure to Ventilate and Maintain Cardiac Perfusion?

To the Editor.—Weinberg¹ is correct: "... lipid infusion should be used, as in this case report,² only after standard resuscitative measures have proven ineffective." In that case, effective ventilation with 100% oxygen and maintenance of cardiac perfusion did not occur for at least 4½ min, i.e., "90s" from first seizure to second seizure, and a conservative estimate of 5 min from it to the establishment of ventilation via intubation of the trachea. "Oxygen ... delivered by a facemask attached to a self-inflating resuscitation bag ... will not reverse the severe respiratory acidosis, which occurs within 30 s after toxic-clonic seizures."³⁴

Almost a half century ago (1960),² we reported 112 ‘Severe Systemic Reactions (Respiratory Arrest, Convulsions, Cardiovascular Collapse)’ in 36,113 patients from local anesthetics (amino-esters and -amides) without mortality or morbidity. From the study, we postulated† that in 36,113 patients from local anesthetics (amino-esters and -amides) Reactions (Respiratory Arrest, Convulsions, Cardiovascular Collapse)" lipid rescue from bupivacaine toxicity in the isolated rat heart. Reg Anesth Pain Med 2006; 31:293–303. Salomaki TE, Laurila PA, Ville J: Successful resuscitation after cardiovascular collapse following accidental intravenous infusion of levobupivacaine during general anesthesia. ANESTHESIOLOGY 2005; 103:1095–6. Chazalon P, Tourtier JP, Villevielle T, Giraud D, Saissey JM, Mion G, Benhamou D: Ropivacaine-induced cardiac arrest after peripheral nerve block: Successful resuscitation. ANESTHESIOLOGY 2003; 99:1449–51.


References


Accepted for publication November 15, 2006.

Daniel C. Moore, M.D., Virginia Mason Medical Center, Seattle, Washington. daniel.moore@vmmc.org

References

In Reply.—I am gratified by the response to the recent case report and accompanying editorial on the successful use of lipid in treating local anesthetic cardiac toxicity. Two of the letters are by authors whose work each occupies substantial space on my bookshelf. I appreciate the support for the lipid method that Dr. Moore showed by adding it to his proposed protocol for treating local anesthetic systemic toxicity.

I agree with Dr. Shipak that propofol is not a good choice for treating patients with local anesthetic-induced toxicity. This was not always my opinion, and a review I wrote on the topic might have lead Rosenblatt’s team to use propofol for seizure suppression—mea culpa. However, given (1) the potential for rapid and unpredictable progression to cardiac depression shortly after central nervous system symptoms, (2) overwhelming evidence of the cardiac suppressive effects of propofol, and (3) the commonly held, but incorrect, belief that propofol and 20% lipid are interchangeable, I believe that propofol should be removed from any such protocol and considered contraindicated in treatment of local anesthetic toxicity.

I caution Dr. Shipak against writing statements that begin with “I would have chosen . . .” as it rarely looks good to question what someone did in extremis. Dr. Rosenblatt and associates did not have the advantage of hindsight but performed admirably in saving the patient’s life. Writing honestly about such an experience vicariously enriches our collective clinical wisdom.

Dr. Shipak points out that the patient’s recovery at the same time as the lipid infusion might not have been causally related, although he remains “cautiously optimistic.” However, I have a distinct advantage. My “considerable enthusiasm” is based on having performed many dozens of experiments over several years in several animal models of bupivacaine toxicity in which lipid failed to resuscitate only twice (arterial pressure and electrocardiographic traces of typical experiments can be viewed at www.lipidrescue.org). Dr. Shipak also wrote that he is “undecided about the effectiveness of lipid . . .” Given the second case report by Litz et al., I consider it unwise to withhold lipid infusion for a patient unresponsive to standard resuscitative measures. Saying “there’s not enough evidence” seems too harsh a sentence for the suffering patient.

Dr. de Jong’s question of general applicability is partially answered by Dr. Rosenblatt’s case (asystole after combined bupivacaine and mepivacaine) and the recent report by Litz et al. of the successful use of lipid in resuscitating a patient in ropivacaine-induced asystole. It is not known whether lipid infusion could benefit a patient with purely central nervous system symptoms of overdose; we wait for laboratory studies or, possibly, case reports.

Dr. de Jong also cites case reports of successful resuscitation with standard methods for cardiac arrest after ropivacaine and levobupivacaine as support for an argument to avoid bupivacaine in favor of the other agents. I believe these cases serve as reminders that use of all local anesthetics carries risk. Knowing they exist, I wonder how often such cases go unreported when the resuscitation is not successful. Accurate numerators and denominators for critical events during regional anesthesia with specific local anesthetics are not available. However, a recent survey by Corcoran et al. shows that bupivacaine surpasses all other local anesthetics as the preferred agent when prolonged anesthesia is required. Lacking epidemiologic evidence supporting a clear safety advantage of alternatives, I think it is unlikely that bupivacaine will be retired from use.

Guy L. Weinberg, M.D., University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, Illinois. guyw@uic.edu

References

5. Weinberg GL. In defence of lipid resuscitation. Anesthesia 2006; 61:807–8

(Accepted for publication November 15, 2006.)
mented ischemic heart disease and previous coronary bypass graft surgery, he was on maximal medical therapy and had refused further diagnostic and surgical interventions. His shoulder was causing him considerable discomfort. We considered that the planned shoulder arthroscopy presented a low risk for cardiac events and that his informed refusal to subject himself to further workup should not be a contraindication. After the event, our patient did consent to a cardiac catheterization. This revealed no bypassable disease, normal left ventricular end-diastolic pressure, and moderate left ventricular dysfunction. Like our patient, the patient reported by Litz et al. had underlying cardiac disease that included a mild form of Morgagni-Adams-Stokes syndrome, left bundle-branch block, and grade II mitral and tricuspid regurgitation. We concur with Dr. Shupak that our patient’s underlying cardiac disease may have made him more susceptible to the cardiotoxic effects of bupivacaine, but our intention was to avoid general anesthesia. Bupivacaine, 0.5%, was chosen because it provides superior surgical anesthesia and longer postoperative analgesia.

Dr. Torrens-Campello and Dr. Moore raised concerns about the sequence and efficacy of events during the cardiopulmonary resuscitation. This case occurred only days before the November 28, 2005, on-line publication of the updated advanced cardiac life support guidelines that subsequently were published in the December 13, 2006, supplement to Circulation. We therefore were in compliance with then applicable guidelines in the use of defibrillation energies. The patient had been receiving supplemental oxygen at 3 l/min before the commencement of the block. As soon as seizure activity was detected, oxygen was delivered from a facemask connected to a self-inflating resuscitation bag. This was continued through the subsequent seizures, until the trachea had been intubated. We therefore disagree with Dr. Moore’s suggestion that hypoxia contributed significantly to the prolongation of the seizure activity. We reiterate that after this entire episode, our patient sustained no permanent neurologic sequelae.

We concur with Dr. de Jong that lipid emulsion is not a panacea for treating the common and noncardiac manifestations of local anesthetic toxicity, but we respectfully disagree with his assertions that bupivacaine is an antiquated agent. Introduced into clinical practice in 1963, bupivacaine has been used to provide superb-quality analgesia and analgesia countless times, and without event. It was not until 16 yr after its introduction that attention was called to its potential cardiotoxicity. Ropivacaine is a substantially more expensive agent that is also cardiotoxic and is still in the infancy of its use. Questions about its superiority to bupivacaine when used in equipotent doses remain unanswered. Rather than abandoning bupivacaine altogether, as Dr. de Jong suggests, we propose that all practitioners of regional anesthesia become familiar with the use of 20% lipid to this end, we encourage physicians to visit a relatively new Web site dedicated to providing this potentially life-saving information.*


---

**War Produces Anesthesiologists**

To the Editor—The main message and demonstration of the excellent article by Martin et al. is that World War II created the need for, and the rapid production of, anesthesiologists. From my perspective, as someone who became an anesthesiologist because of the Vietnam War, the same is true of the Vietnam War both in concept and in the process details that were so well described by Martin et al. At the height of the Vietnam War in 1968-1969, there were great numbers of soldiers with multiple fragment wounds due to rocket-propelled grenades, and there was a need for medical doctors to staff the anesthesia and orthopedic departments of forward-placed MASH units. The US Army offered graduating interns, who for one reason or another were not going straight into a residency (called a Berry deferment), a 2-yr on-the-job training (OJT) assignment in anesthesiology or orthopedics rather than just routinely becoming a general medical officer. The anesthesiology OJT tour of duty started out with being assigned to a stateside Army hospital and being taught/trained by a board-eligible or -certified anesthesiologist for approximately 3 months (a short, intense 90-day course in anesthesiology). At this juncture, many/most OJTs were assigned to positions in forward-placed MASH units in Vietnam for 1 yr, and these OJTs practiced almost exclusively emergency/trauma anesthesia. The remainder of the 2-yr obligation (6 months) was fulfilled by practicing anesthesia once again in a stateside Army hospital. It is my impression that many/most of the medical doctors who went through the OJT experience in anesthesiology in 1968-1969 then went on to take formal residencies in anesthesiology, and presumably many became board-certified anesthesiologists. Therefore, with respect to the anesthesiology “Short Course,” the teachers of the course, and the eventual professional outcome (board eligibility/certification) for the doctors who went through the program, I think the Vietnam War OJT anesthesia program was quite similar to the World War II anesthesia program.

Jonathan L. Benumof, M.D., UCSD Medical Center, San Diego, California. jbenumof@ucsd.edu

---

**Reference**

World War II Short Course: A Personal View

To the Editor— I read with interest the article by my colleague on the World War II short course on anesthesia and its impact on the specialty of anesthesia. The authors documented far-reaching effects of 6-month anesthesia short courses set up for the military during World War II. One short course graduate was my father, Frank Leo Faust, M.D. He had been called from his surgical residency to active duty in the Navy the day after the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941. Three years later, additional volunteers were sought from military physicians for the short courses in anesthesia. It was anticipated that a great number of wounded would need surgery during the planned invasion on the beaches of Japan. His short course took place at Lahey Clinic during late 1944.

Although it would not be expected that a 6-month trainee might make “academic” contributions, he published an article in Anesthesiology on a series of repeated sympathetic blocks he performed on 40 veterans at the US Naval Hospital in New Orleans, Louisiana, after the war. In contrast to modern publication styles, one figure in that article is a pen and ink anatomical “cartoon” drawing signed by the author himself.

After discharge from the Navy, he entered private practice in New Orleans. In the early years, he actually carried his anesthesia machine in his trunk when called to do cases at some hospitals. He introduced regional anesthesia techniques he had learned in Boston into anesthesia practice in New Orleans. Obtaining American Board of Anesthesiology certification in 1950, he practiced in New Orleans for 34 yr and resides there now at age 91.

Ronald J. Faust, M.D., Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, Rochester, Minnesota. rfaust@mayo.edu

References
2. Faust FL. Repeated sympathetic blocks: Their limitation and value. Anesthesiology 1946; 7:161–75

In Reply— We thank Drs. Benumof and Faust for sharing their stories in regard to our article. These stories demonstrate the important impact that war has had on the specialty of anesthesia. It is important to record these observations before they are lost to history. The repeat of the short course strategy in Vietnam proves that the idea was well conceived and answered the Armed Forces’ need.

David P. Martin, M.D., Ph.D., Christopher M. Burkle, M.D., Brian P. McGlinch, M.D., Mary E. Warner, M.D., Alan D. Sessler, M.D., Douglas R. Bacon, M.D., M.A. Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, Rochester, Minnesota. martin.david@mayo.edu

Cable Trapped Under Dräger Fabius Automatic Pressure Limiting Valve Causes Inability to Ventilate

To the Editor— I would like to report a problem with the Dräger Fabius anesthesia machine (Telford, PA) that caused the inability to ventilate. After the inhalational induction of a 2,100-g infant presenting for abdominal surgery, a muscle relaxant was given to facilitate intubation. As paralysis developed, a large circuit leak was discovered, making manual ventilation impossible. The machine had passed its preoperative checkout, and a further rapid check of the circuit did not uncover any disconnections, breaks in the circuit, or obvious explanation for the inability to generate positive pressure. During this check, the automatic pressure limiting (APL) knob was rotated back and forth through its range several times, but this did not correct the inability to ventilate. A self-inflating ventilation bag was used to ventilate the patient while we continued to troubleshoot the system. It was discovered that the temperature monitoring cable had become trapped between the knob and the base of the APL Valve (fig. 1A).

During normal operation, the APL dial of the Dräger Fabius anesthesia machine is lifted 4 mm from the base into the “open” position, releasing any positive pressure within the circuit. Closure of the APL Valve requires...
to clean the viewing port. We moistened with warm normal saline (e.g., Item 6075; Sage Products, Inc., Cary, IL) through the CTrach™ to clean the viewing port. We have now used this technique in more than 10 instances, with uniformly excellent results (fig. 1).

Marco A. Maurtua, M.D.,* Delia B. Maurtua, M.D., Andrew Zura, M.D., D. John Doyle, M.D., Ph.D. *Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, Ohio. maurtum@ccf.org

Reference


(Accepted for publication October 10, 2006.)
Fig. 1. A and B show the CTrach Laryngeal Mask Airway™ with and without optic lens protective sponge swab. C shows the hemostat and protective sponge swab and side view of the CTrach Laryngeal Mask Airway™. D shows the protective sponge swab inserted in the CTrach Laryngeal Mask Airway™.