intraspinal pressure) certainly must be considered. Our patient had no further diagnostic work-up (i.e., magnetic resonance imaging, computed tomography—myelogram, cerebral-spine x-ray) because his symptoms never returned. We would concur with Vandam that if the patient’s symptoms recurred, further diagnostic work-up would be indicated.

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Airway Management with a Special Tube in an Infant with Bronchial Obstruction

To the Editor—In the case of increased pulmonary blood flow associated with congenital cardiac defects, dilation of pulmonary artery may compress the airway, causing airway stenosis. In such a case, positive pressure ventilation may lead to hyperinflation of the lung beyond the stenosis. We present a case of an infant in whom bronchial stenosis was successfully managed by use of a specially configured tube that served as a stent for a segment of collapsed bronchi.

Our male patient was delivered vaginally at 39 weeks gestational age, with a birth weight of 3,000 g. Immediately after delivery, he presented with severe respiratory distress and cyanosis, and his trachea was intubated. Echocardiography resulted in a diagnosis of corrected transposition of the great arteries, pulmonary atresia, ventricular septal defect, patent ductus arteriosus, and right aortic arch. Fiberoptic bronchoscopy (FB) indicated stenosis of the right main bronchus (RMB), with compression by the dilated aorta possibly contributing to the stenosis.

When the child was 8 days old, sotosternopexy and left modified Blalock-Tausig shunt were performed, but they failed to relieve stenosis of RMB and hyperinflation of the right lung. An endotracheal tube tried as a stent was unsatisfactory because it did not permit ventilation of the left lung and obstructed the orifice of the right upper lobe bronchus. We therefore created two elliptical openings in the lateral wall of a 3-mm tube. The orifice for ventilating the left lung was located 1.5–4 cm from the distal tip of the endotracheal tube. A second orifice for ventilation of the right upper lobe bronchus was created on the contralateral side of wall of the tube. It was at the distal tip of the tube with a long axis of 1 cm and short axis of 2 mm. This modified tube was positioned with the distal tip within the RMB. Correct positioning was confirmed with FB and chest x-ray. Hyperinflation of the right lung was reduced and Pco2 could be maintained within normal range with lower inspiratory pressures than possible with tracheal intubation.

The risk of using a customized tube included the possibility of airway damage due to roughened surface of the tube where the added orifices were located. We smoothed the cut area using very fine sand paper and then tetradrofurum.

In conclusion, we treated a case of bronchial compression caused by a dilated aorta. The airway management was difficult and positive inspiratory pressure led to hyperinflation of the distal lung. Various therapies failed to improve the condition, and a customized tube, which could stent the compression, enabled us to manage ventilation successfully.

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REFERENCES

Spontaneous Ventilation Through Transtracheal Access

To the Editor:—We read with interest the article by Dallen et al. We encountered a similar case more than 27 yr ago that was successfully treated by using two 14-G thin-wall intravenous needles. Subsequently we constructed two types of trocar (9- and 12-G) (fig. 1), which remain...