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REFERENCES

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We agree that activated charcoal hypothetically reduces residual anesthetic concentrations. Although charcoal does seem useful for reducing anesthetic depth while maintaining a closed circuit, the Letters to the Editor proposing this technique do not adequately evaluate its safety for patients susceptible to malignant hyperthermia.1,2

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REFERENCES

2. Ernst EA: Use of charcoal to rapidly decrease depth of anesthesia while maintaining a closed circuit. Anesthesiology 57:343, 1982
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A Potential Complication of Fiberoptic Intubation

To the Editor—The fiberoptic bronchoscope can be a useful aid to tracheal intubation.1,2 We wish to report a potentially serious complication associated with the use of this instrument.

A 41-yr-old man with an unstable fracture of the lumbar spine was scheduled for posterior instrumentation and fusion under general anesthesia. The surgeons had requested awake tracheal intubation and positioning of the patient because of the unstable nature of the injury. Following intravenous sedation and the topical application of local an-