

Seeing is Believing: Neonatal Intubation Using Video Laryngoscope

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Medicine is a science and art at the same time. This applies to neonatal endotracheal intubation. It is a science that requires a high level of training and once mastered it becomes an artistic skill.

Traditionally neonates are intubated using direct laryngoscope (DL). However, in recent reports, it has been observed that by using Video laryngoscope (VL) comparable outcomes could be obtained. (1,2)

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In a recent Cochrane review in the adult population, it was concluded that VL might reduce the number of failed intubations, improve the glottic view and may reduce laryngeal/airway trauma, however no evidence indicates that use of a VL reduces the number of intubation attempts or the incidence of hypoxia or respiratory complications and affects time required for intubation. (3)

Does VL hold the future in neonatal intubation?

To answer this question and make it a standard of practice more studies are needed. The results of one of these studies will be available next year. This study is a multi-center collaborative sponsored by Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. (4).

References:

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