Can J Anesth/J Can Anesth (2016) 63:114
DOI 10.1007/s12630-015-0488-7

IN REPLY

In reply: No reduction in fibreoptic intubation rates with universal video laryngoscopy

J. Adam Law, MD · Andrew D. Milne, MD · Ian R. Morris, MD

Received: 27 August 2015 / Accepted: 9 September 2015 / Published online: 30 September 2015

To the Editor,

We thank Drs. Thomas, Kelly, and Cook for their interest in our publication and for sharing their experience. As they point out, in spite of a significant increase in the rate of using video laryngoscopy (VL) at our institution over the studied time period of 2002-2013, we use VL to facilitate only a small percentage of tracheal intubations (8-10% from 2012 to 2013). Granted, that figure rises slightly to 10-12% when other alternatives to direct laryngoscopy, e.g., lighted stylet, are also considered.[1] We continue to use VL chiefly for anticipated or known situations of difficult direct laryngoscopy or for teaching purposes.

It was interesting to learn that Dr. Thomas *et al.*[2] reported an overall incidence of awake tracheal intubation (about 1%) which is similar to ours.

We look forward to a report from Dr. Thomas *et al.* some years hence that will clarify whether their universal use of VL has had an impact on the incidence of awake tracheal intubation over a longer time period, or, as with our results, the need for awake tracheal intubation appears to remain relatively fixed.

Conflicts of interest None declared.

References

1. *Law AJ*, *Morris IR*, *Brousseau PA*, *de la Ronde S*, *Milne AD*. The incidence, success rate, and complications of awake tracheal intubation in 1,554 patients over 12 years: an historical cohort study. Can J Anesth 2015; 62: 736-44.
2. *Thomas G, Kelly F, Cook T*. No reduction in fibreoptic intubation rates with universal videolaryngoscopy. Can J Anesth 2016; 63: this issue. DOI: 10.1007/s12630-015-0487-8.

J. A. Law, MD (✉) · A. D. Milne, MD · I. R. Morris, MD
Department of Anesthesia, Pain Management and Perioperative Medicine, QEII Health Sciences Centre, Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS, Canada
e-mail: J.Law@Dal.Ca