BAIN CIRCUIT: "THE HAZARD OF THE HIDDEN TUBE"

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THE PRACTICALITY of the Bain circuit¹ is proven by its increasing popularity. However, the safety of the "tube-within-a-tube" system has raised concern, and in fact complications already have been reported.²

I wish to report another complication: kinking of the inner tube with complete obstruction to fresh gas flow (Figure 1). This particular circuit was removed from its packaging appearing to be normal. However, when the fresh gas flow was connected to the inlet, no flow in fact occurred. In spite of the transparency of the

FIGURE 1. X-ray of Bain circuit showing kinked inner tube totally obstructed.

circuit, the inner tube is still hard to see, so that the kinked portion was not obvious until the circuit was carefully examined over a strong light.

I assume that in the manufacturing process the inner tube was cut too long and in order to be accommodated within the larger tube, kinking resulted.

The simple streamlined design of the Bain circuit is attractive, but it means some compromise in safety. We should demand higher manufacturing standards, and of course the onus is on the clinician to carefully test each circuit prior to use.

REFERENCES

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2. HANALLAH, R. & ROSALES, J.K. A hazard connected with re-use of the Bain circuit - Case report. *C.A.S.J.* 21: 511 (1974).

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