LARYNGOSCOPE BLADE WITH SUCTION UNIT

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DIRECT LARYNGOSCOPY under general anaesthesia or under topical analgesia of the upper airway is used routinely to facilitate tracheal intubation. It is sometimes necessary to delay insertion of the tracheal tube while the right hand manipulates a suction device. This being so, it seemed expedient to incorporate a suction device in the laryngoscope blade, leaving the right hand free for the intubation manoeuvre.

DESCRIPTION

The design of the "Laryngoscope Blade with Suction Unit" is based on the conventional Macintosh curved blade (Figure). A metal suction tube is fixed into the groove on the posterior aspect of the Macintosh blade so that the tip just protrudes behind the end of the blade on its left side. When so positioned, the suction tip can not injure the pharyngeal mucosa and the view of the larynx is unobstructed. This blade can be manoeuvred inside the mouth in the same way as the normal blade without the suction attachment. This prototype was constructed in our hospital workshop.

DISCUSSION

More than 60 laryngoscope blades have been introduced since Kirstein reported his experience with the autoscope.^{2,3} Some modified blades have special attachments to facilitate intubation.⁵ One modified blade has previously been described specifically for tracheobronchial suction in the newborn⁴ but the catheter is placed in front of a straight blade and interferes with visualization of the larynx.

My colleagues and I have used the "Laryngoscope Blade with Suction Unit" as described and found it offers advantages both where pharyngeal secretions are present or when there is blood in the pharynx, as from a bleeding tonsillar bed.

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SUMMARY

A laryngoscope blade incorporating a suction tube is described. Blood or secretions are automatically aspirated from the pharynx when the blade is inserted.

RÉSUMÉ

Une canule d'aspiration fixée à une lame de laryngoscope courbe, permet l'aspiration automatique des sécrétions lorsque le laryngoscope est introduit. L'auteur en explique le fonctionnement.

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