the consent process) with regard to the SIDE EFFECTS OF THE LOCAL. As means of different measures, there is no relationship between them.

For the latter question, the entire sample mean was 6.8 and the standard deviation was 4.18 with an $n = 60$. The side-effect group of $n = 18$ had a mean of 3.1 ± 4.14 . The no side-effect group of $n = 48$ had a mean of 7.1 ± 4.16 .

I hope this gives a clearer picture of the results. In retrospect, we recognize that we should have reiterated and fully explained the overall mean level of satisfaction of 8.1 in the results section as this truly was the crucial result of the study.

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Tuohy needles and CSE

To the Editor:

All 8.9 cm (3.5 inches) Tuohy needles are not equal in length. Combined spinal-epidural anaesthesia is now part of our everyday practice. Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) is usually easily obtained, provided a special 11.90 cm (4 11/16 inches, Becton-Dickenson, Franklin Lakes, NJ, USA) spinal needle is inserted through the 8.9 cm Tuohy needle. We recently encountered a situation forcing us to replace our usual epidural tray (Baxter, Deerfield, IL, USA) with material manufactured by Preferred Medical Products (Thorold, Ontario, Canada). We then experienced difficulties obtaining free flow of CSF with this new material. Although the length of the shaft of the needles is the same for both

manufacturers, the length of the hub is longer in the second needle, providing only one mm protrusion of the spinal needle at the end of the Tuohy needle, while with the first epidural kit, needle protrusion is approximately 1.2 cm (Figure). The problem disappeared when the first epidural kit became available again.

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Fibreoptic cart for intubation and teaching

To the Editor:

The efficiency of fibreoptic intubation and teaching depend heavily on all necessary equipment and intubation aids being immediately available.¹ For this reason we have compiled a special fibreoptic intubation cart to make sure all needed equipment is readily at hand (Figure).

The fibreoptic intubation cart can also be used for the training and teaching of all staff and trainees in fibreoptic intubation techniques. Use of the cart for both routine clinical practice and for teaching offers obvious economic advantages. Especially the video-recorder enables us to use this cart for instruction purposes. All airway management equipment used in our hospital is available on the cart and is listed in the Table.

The cart is used for both predicted and unexpected difficult intubations. The cart has a fixed location in the operating theatre complex, where it is returned after use. The fibreoptic bronchoscope is cleaned and disinfected after use during which time we have a second bronchoscope available.

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FIGURE: Top - Baxter Tuohy needle; bottom - PMP needle. A Becton-Dickenson 11.90 cm Whitacre #27 needle is inserted in both.

REFERENCES

- 1 Benumof JL. Airway Management Principles and Practice. Mosby Year Book, 1996: 289, Fig 16-4.
- 2 Mallios C. A modification of the Laerdal anaesthesia mask for nasotracheal intubation with the fibreoptic laryngoscope. *Anaesthesia* 1980; 35: 599-600.

FIGURE Mobile cart for intubation and teaching

TABLE Equipment on the fiberoptic intubation cart

- Broncho fibroscope: Olympus BF type P20
- Broncho fibroscope: Pentax FI-10P
- Cold light source
- Suction connector device and tubing with oxygen port
- Videocamera: Panasonic KS152
- Monitor: Sony RVM-1443MD

- Videorecorder: Panasonic AG 5700
- Jet Ventilator (portable): Acutronic MK 800
- Laryngoscope: Macintosh, Miller
- Angulated prism laryngoscope (reference)
- Optical stylet
- Retrograde intubation equipment
- Cricothyrotomy device 4 mm ID for adults
- Face masks
- Modified Laerdal face mask²
- Oral airways
- Oral airways intubator (Rogers)
- Endotracheal tubes (oral, bowed, nasal): Ivory, Portex
- Endotracheal tubes guides
- Laryngeal masks
- Jet Ventilation insufflation catheter 14 Fr
- Transtracheal canula (HFJV) 13 G for adults
- Silicone spray Universal
- Xylocaine gel 2%
- Antifogging solution (Ultra stop)
- Xylomethazoline HCL 1 % (Otrivine)
- Oxybuprocainurn HCL 1 % (Novesine)
- Spray system of Bilbiss

Mallinckrodt reinforced tube for tracheal intubation through the intubating laryngeal mask

To the Editor:

The intubating laryngeal mask has a potential role for tracheal intubation in patients with difficult airways.¹⁻³ A specially tailored silicone-made tracheal tube (internal diameter: 8.0 mm) is available for this purpose,¹ but other types of tube can also be used.¹ The Mallinckrodt reinforced tube (Athlone, Ireland) is suitable for tracheal intubation through the conventional laryngeal mask,⁴ but one disadvantage of this tube is that the connector is glued to the tube so that it is not possible to remove the laryngeal mask after tracheal intubation. When the conventional laryngeal mask is used, there should be little problem by leaving the mask in place after tracheal intubation.⁵ In contrast, because the intubating laryngeal mask has a metal guiding handle, it may be undesirable to leave it in place after tracheal intubation, particularly when the patient is turned to prone position or when operation site is near the mouth.

I have noticed that it is relatively easy to detach the connector of the Mallinckrodt tube by inserting a blunt spatula between the tube and connector without damaging them. After the tube is passed through the