ter, cuff, Murphy eye, etc.) but do not include recommendations about external diameter.²

While internal diameter is important for the airway resistance, the magnitude of the external diameter may play a role in the development of postintubation airway edema, postintubation croup and subglottic stenosis in pediatric patients. Therefore, when choosing a certain size of tracheal tube in children, both internal and external diameters should be taken into account.

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REPLY:

We would like to thank Ezri *et al.* for their interesting comments on our case report.¹ Their illustrations confirm that wire-reinforced tubes not only have a larger outer diameter (OD) than conventional pediatric polyvinyl chloride tracheal tubes but also that similarly designed tubes with identical internal diameter (ID) provided by different manufacturers can reveal large differences in OD.²

We agree that anesthesiologists should take into account both the internal as well as the external diameter when selecting tracheal tubes in children, as mentioned in our case report. Whereas the OD is the more reliable measure when selecting an uncuffed pediatric tracheal tube with appropriate fit and seal in the trachea, for the use of cuffed pediatric tracheal tubes, however, the OD is not essential for tracheal sealing and thus the ID-dependent formulas are usually used.^{2–5} Furthermore, most anesthesiologists routinely use the internal tube diameter for age-dependent selection of tracheal tubes in children³ and tracheal tubes are categorized and provided by the manufacturers according to their ID.

Since there are no standardized guidelines for OD in pediatric tracheal tubes and not all anesthesiologists use and know OD formulas for tracheal tube size selection in children, manufacturers should provide specific product-related data for pediatric tube size selection on their tube package.²

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More on the destruction of the ProSeal™ LMA

To the Editor:

We were interested in the letter to the editor by Jolly *et al.*¹ and would also like to voice cautionary tales concerning cleaning and processing of the new ProSeal™ laryngeal mask airway (LMA; Laryngeal Mask Company, Henley-on-Thames, UK). Last year we had three cases where a drain tube leak was detected by the soap membrane test following insertion of the airway into the patient and positive pressure ventilation. After removal, it was discovered that each ProSeal had a hole in the drain tube, as shown in the Figure. All three occurred in nearly identical locations. After the third incident we determined that the cause of injury was the use of an inappropriately large and