Is It Time To Take A Second Look At Pediatric Field Intubation?

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Is it important to intubate kids?

• It is difficult to control airway pressures in children under 12 mos. Stomachs inflate (much higher in LAt BVM) and often we can’t decompress them with SGA’s.
  – Probably leads to less effective compressions and
  – Increased aspiration risk (no difference in LAt)

• And what about the kids who are not in CA?
Method

• We looked at pediatric intubation pre and post deployment of VL.

• The primary aim of the study was to compare the first pass success rate (FPS) between the two methodologies (DL vs VL).
Results

- 28 DL, 27 VL
- There was no statistical difference in FPS, or final attempt success between DL and VL.
- But there was an interesting finding (signal)…
Method

• In the study, difficult airways were defined a priori.
• Airways which were associated with facial trauma, secretions and/or laryngeal edema from any cause were considered difficult.
Results

- The crews attempted significantly more difficult airways with VL than with DL (10 vs 2, p=.0095).
- Success rates trended higher with VL even though, there were significantly more VL than DL difficult airways. 1/2 DL vs 5/10 VL (not statistically significant).
Discussion

• Almost certainly there is a better view with VL
• It is may be that VL is more important in the less skilled intubator* than the more skilled i.e.,
  – It makes easy tubes easier and difficult tubes possible for the less skilled.
• Personal lab experience.

Discussion

• VL probably has its greatest impact on difficult airways.
• Almost by definition, all young pediatric pts have difficult airways, especially for the relatively inexperienced provider.
Finally

- 15\textsuperscript{th} anniversary of the landmark LAt.
- With the advent of VL (and the routine use of ETCO\textsubscript{2}), I posit the following question:
Finally

Is it time to repeat the LAt, but this time including VL and ETCO$_2$?
HOW IS POTTY-TRAINING AN IMPROVEMENT ON OUR CURRENT ARRANGEMENT?
QUESTIONS


