

# Laryngoscopes and Intubation Aides 2016 - 2017

## Description:

Insertion of tubes into the trachea for the purpose of ventilation or protection of the airway is a core skill for anaesthetists. This session looks at the devices which facilitate this. The devices are categorized and described so as to encourage the reader to view each individual item within the context of similar types of equipment.

# Session Introduction

## Learning Objectives:

- By the end of this session you should be able to:  
Identify the types of laryngoscopes most commonly used in anaesthetics
- Describe the design of both rigid retractor type and optical models of laryngoscope
- Explain the application and limitations of both rigid retractor and flexible models of laryngoscope
- Identify intubation aids commonly used in anaesthetics
- Describe the specific functions for which the several intubation aids are designed

Rigid Lighted Retractor Laryngoscopes

The basic design

The Macintosh laryngoscope

The Flexible Fibre Optic Scope

Intubation Aids

Overview

Gum elastic bougie (GEB)

Stylets

Light Wands And The Trachlight

Retrograde Intubation

# Session Key Points

- Laryngoscopes are used in order to visualize and locate the laryngeal inlet to allow insertion of tubes
- Traditional laryngoscopes are rigid lighted retractors to allow alignment of eye and target area
- Where it is not possible to attain that for anatomical or pathological reasons, a device is needed that allows the anaesthetist to look around corners by conveying the image visible from the tip of the device
- Flexible fiber optic scopes can follow the anatomical airway more or less irrespective of the shape
- Rigid optical scopes can convey the image around corners but they have a fixed shape which is a limitation. They however, also work as tissue retractors. It is yet not clear where and how they fit into the anaesthetists repertoire
- Bougies, stylets and guides are used to steer a tube into a trachea that has been located by sight, by inference or by an existing trachea tube
- The Aintree catheter in combination with FFS allows use of a cLMA as a conduit and is a simple and powerful technique

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