



Intubating laryngeal mask airway with transplanted pilot balloon?

Sir,

Intubating laryngeal mask airway (ILMA) is often used in elective surgical procedures and emergency difficult airway management. It is made up of silicon rubber for its longevity. It is expected to perform best in first 40 uses; however, damage of device is not guaranteed up to 40 uses. The pilot balloon can get damaged while handling, washing, or cleaning. In such a case, it has to be discarded immediately.^[1]



Figure 1: ILMA with damaged and transplanted pilot balloon

Recently, while doing the preuse check of an ILMA, we discovered that the pilot balloon assembly was disrupted. Since, it was a new device (hardly used twice) and as it is expensive, we did not discard it. We decided to replace the disrupted pilot balloon assembly of ILMA with the pilot balloon along with 2 cm inflation tubing of size 7 mm ID tracheal tube. The cut end of the inflation tubing along with pilot balloon fitted snugly into the inflation channel of ILMA is shown in [Figure 1]. The ILMA cuff could be inflated with the transplanted pilot balloon. The cuff pressures were sustained, as seen by the cuff dimensions and subsequently confirmed with cuff pressure manometer. The pilot balloon was subsequently fixed with the help of adhesive (Fevikwik, Pidilite Industries Limited, Mumbai, India) to prevent accidental leakage.

This device has been subsequently used more than 20 times and no problem was noted. The cuff and the airway tube of the repaired ILMA are cleaned in warm water with Endozime®. Thereafter, the inside of the airway tube using is cleaned with a soft bristle brush and then the device was rinsed thoroughly in warm running tap water.

We have described a novel indigenous technique for repair of the costly equipment. This technique can be utilized for repair of costly ILMA, but we should be careful and always check such a repaired device before use to prevent mishap.

**Vinod Bala, Anju Gupta¹, Nishkarsh Gupta,
Mridula Pawar**


Department of Anaesthesiology, PGIMER and RMLH, New Delhi,
¹Specialist, Government of NCT, Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya
Hospital, Delhi, India

Address for correspondence: Dr. Anju Gupta, 437, Pocket A,
Sarita Vihar, New Delhi, India.
E-mail: dranjuguptya2009@rediffmail.com

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