

Abstract

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LeHeR , a Simple Novel Approach For Difficult Airway in Non Trauma Patients : a Case Series

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Objectives:

The difficult airway is encountered in 6-11% of patients undergoing endotracheal intubation. We have encountered a novel method of improving laryngoscopic view

Methods:

The LeHeR (left head rotation) in Supine position technique was performed on 5 patients with difficulty to ventilate and Cormack-Lehane 3A and 3B during laryngoscopy

Results:

Case 1: A 3 year-old-boy with gross hydrocephalus in respiratory distress due to aspiration pneumonia had an oxygen saturation of 80% despite being on high flow oxygen. Due to his large occiput, his neck was flexed his Cormack Lehane was 3b despite external laryngeal manipulation and ramp. LeHer was applied and improvement of bag-valve-mask ventilation followed by improved laryngoscopy view to grade 1 was achieved.

Case 2: A 9-month-old girl, with status epilepticus secondary to meningitis, cyanosed. Intubation was hindered by a floppy epiglottis and patient desaturated to 57% with bag-valve-mask ventilation. LeHeR was applied and her oxygen saturation increased and she was successfully intubated.

Case 3: A 57-year-old obese man with cardiac arrest. There was difficulty in achieving adequate bag-valve-mask ventilation despite the use of oropharyngeal airway. LeHeR was applied and the patient was successfully ventilated via the same setup.

Case 4: A 25-year-old man had cardiac arrest. Laryngoscopy during CPR showed a Cormack Lehane 3b. LeHeR improved the view to grade 1 and intubation was performed successfully.

Case 5: A 6-year-old boy, drowned for almost 30 minutes in cardiac arrest. Abdomen was distended with water and there were difficulties in getting the appropriate-sized oropharyngeal airway. LeHeR method opened up his airway and patient was successfully intubated.

Conclusions:

The supine LeHeR technique is a simple manoeuvre to improve drastically the laryngoscopic view for Cormack-Lehane. Preliminary of Supine LeHeR vs Simple neck extension MRI studies and on going study on fresh cadaver support that LeHeR improve the airway, and improve in intubation difficulty scale.