

Is the LMA Classic a secure airway?

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Sir,

We would like to comment on the letter by Dube et al.¹

Although the technique described 'Nasogastric tube insertion with LMA-Classic *in situ*' is indeed an interesting one, there are other issues in the letter that need to be addressed.

The authors describe a situation where a patient undergoing an elective open abdominal procedure cannot be intubated. There is no mention of ventilation problems, nor whether the patient was paralyzed.

The authors claim that using an LMA Classic in this situation is a secure airway. We argue that **LMA Classic is a supraglottic ventilatory device and thus not a secure airway.**²

Given the facts that the patient was scheduled for intubation that the stomach was distended with air from ventilation and there were no ventilation problems, we believe that a safer approach in this situation would be either to intubate the patient by other means [e.g. via an Intubating Laryngeal Mask Airway (ILMA/FasTrach) or fiberoptically] or to awaken the patient and perform an awake/sedated intubation, before open upper abdominal surgery is started.

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References

1. Dube SK, Kant R, Dubey RK, Singh DK. Nasogastric tube insertion with LMA-Classic *in situ*. Acta Anaesthesiol Scand 2009; 53: 693.