

## THE PAEDIATRIC INFANT CIRCUIT AS AN AID TO BLIND NASAL INTUBATION

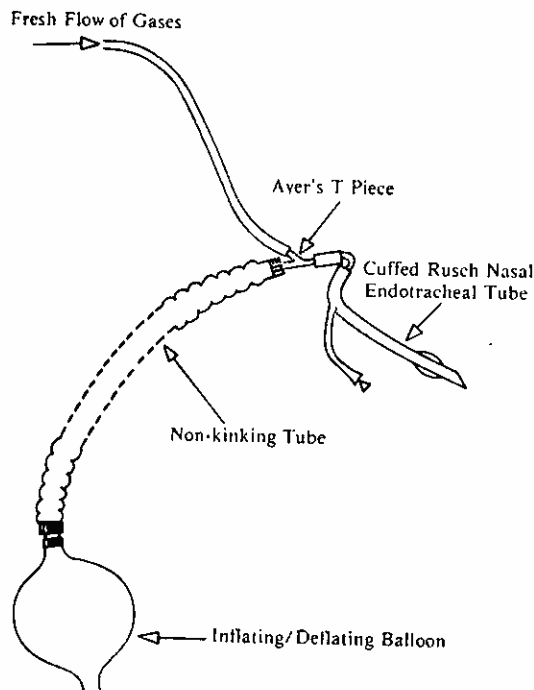
By Teo Chee Yeow

### SYNOPSIS

A technique of blind nasal intubation using the paediatric infant non-rebreathing circuit is described.

### CASE REPORT

A blind nasal intubation technique of an adult was performed with the aid of a paediatric infant circuit as shown:



The patient, a 28 year old male, had an Abbes flap operation done 2 weeks previously for a cleft lip. In that operation, the two lips were sutured together except for a small opening at each corner of the mouth.

Premedication consisted of a dose of 0.6 mgm. atropine and 50 mgm. pethidine. The pa-

tient was induced with 250 mgm. thiopentone given intravenously. Spontaneous respiration by mask was then maintained with a gas mixture consisting of nitrous oxide 4 litres per minute and oxygen 2 litres per minute with halothane progressing from 0.5% to 2%. After 5 minutes, a cuffed Rusch nasal endotracheal tube of diameter 8.5 mm. was connected to the flow of gases and nasal intubation was then performed quite satisfactorily by observing the movement of the anaesthetic bag. The inflation/deflation of the bag was greatest when the tip of the endotracheal tube was nearest and facing the opening of the larynx. When the tip of the endotracheal tube touched the vocal cords the patient began to cough. At this position, the tube was gently pushed in. The cuff was then inflated and the operation continued uneventfully.

### DISCUSSION

Blind intubation is a technique that all anaesthetists have to perform at one time or other. It is usually done on patients whose mouths cannot be opened such as following burn contractures. A good account of the technique can be found in most textbooks such as *The Synopsis Of Anaesthesia* by J. Alfred Lee and Atkinson. However, the technique described depends on listening to the respiration from the end of the endotracheal tube.

A quite similar method of blind intubation was described by C. W. Thomson using a stethoscope as an aid in place of the anaesthetic bag described above.

### REFERENCES

1. Lee, J.A. and Atkinson, R.S.: "Technique of Blind Intubation." *A Synopsis of Anaesthesia*. 231-233, 1973.
2. Thomson, C.W.: "The Stethoscope Aiding Nasal Intubation." *Anaesthesia*, 22, 642, 1967.

Department of Anaesthesia, General Hospital, Singapore 3.

TEO CHEE YEOW, M.B., B.S., F.F.A.R.A.C.S.