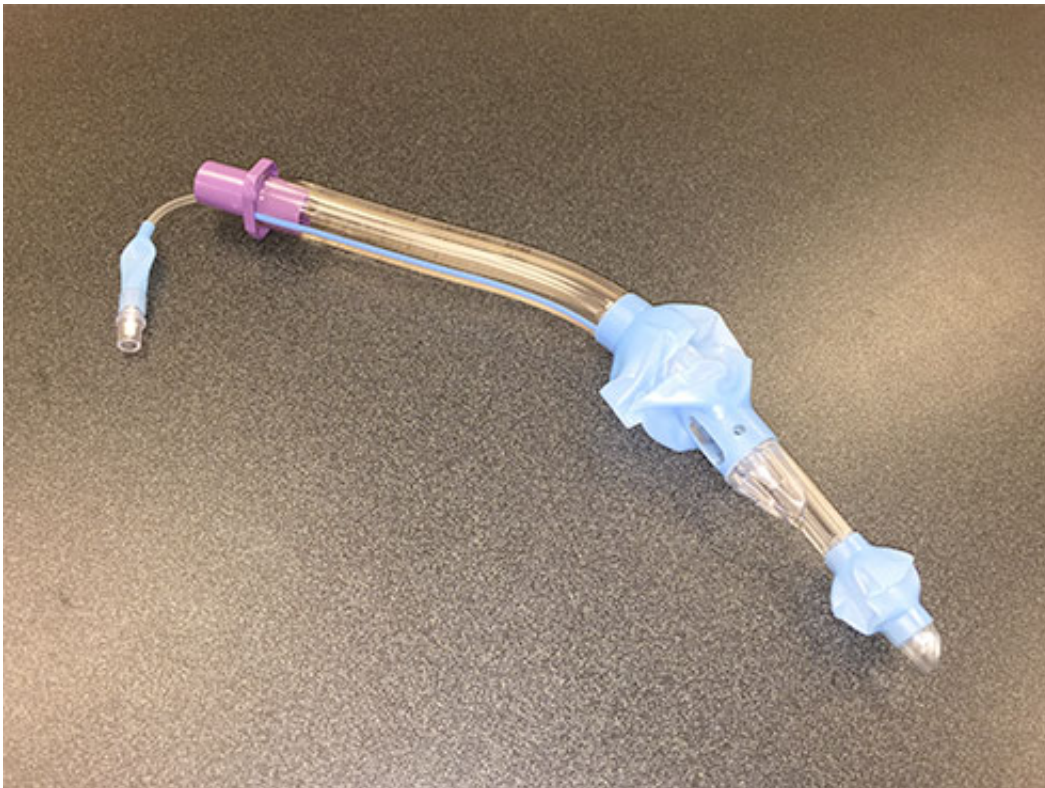


National cardiac arrest study of new breathing tube

December 3 2015, by Bob Shepard



Investigators at the University of Alabama at Birmingham want to determine whether a newer, easier-to-use breathing tube will produce better results than existing endotracheal tubes in cases of out-of-hospital cardiac arrest. UAB's Alabama Resuscitation Center is spearheading a national trial involving paramedics in five U.S. metropolitan areas.

"Out-of-hospital [cardiac arrest](#) is a major public health problem in this country with some 300,000 cases per year," said Henry Wang, M.D., professor and vice chair for Research in the UAB Department of Emergency Medicine. "Only about 10 percent survive, and [airway](#) management during cardiac arrest is an extremely important aspect of treatment."

Wang is the national principal investigator for the Pragmatic Airway Resuscitation Trial—or PART—which will examine the older endotracheal tube's performance against the newer King laryngeal tube to see whether either produces higher 72-hour survival rates in adults with cardiac arrest treated by EMS responders.

Paramedics often care for patients with cardiac arrest by inserting a plastic endotracheal tube into the lungs to assist with breathing. The King LT is a newer device that is easier to insert than the endotracheal tube.

"While both are commonly used by paramedics, we do not have a consensus as to which is a better choice for use in adult cardiac arrest," Wang said. "The [endotracheal tube](#) can be difficult and time-consuming to insert properly. The King LT is just one of several newer airway devices that show great promise but need to be studied."

PART will be conducted in Birmingham, Dallas, Milwaukee, Pittsburgh and Portland. Locally, the Bessemer Fire Department is the first EMS agency in the country to take part.

Adult cardiac arrest patients will randomly receive the standard ET tube or the newer King LT airway device. Because this study will be conducted on people who have suffered cardiac arrest and are unconscious, the UAB Institutional Review Board has granted permission for the study to be conducted under exception from informed consent for emergency research.

More information: For questions about the trial, or to opt out, please contact the PART study team at (205) 934-9532 or alabamaroc@uabmc.edu.

Provided by University of Alabama at Birmingham

Citation: National cardiac arrest study of new breathing tube (2015, December 3) retrieved 17 July 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2015-12-national-cardiac-tube.html>

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