Laryngoscopy skills worsen after month without practice

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(HealthDay)—Laryngoscopy skill performance levels change after one

month without practice, with worse consistency for C-MAC and A.P. Advance, according to a study published online Aug. 17 in *Anaesthesia*.

I. Hunter, from the Royal United Hospital in Bath in the United Kingdom, and colleagues compared the time taken to intubate the trachea of a manikin by novice medical students immediately after training and after one month with no intervening practice. The authors conducted a two-period, four-group cross-over trial to compare the Macintosh, Venner A.P. Advance with difficult airway blade, C-MAC with D-Blade, and Airtraq with wireless video-viewer.

The researchers observed no significant difference in median intubation time using the videolaryngoscopes versus the Macintosh (30 seconds) after training. Intubation time was longer using the C-MAC and A.P. Advance versus the Macintosh (41 and 30 seconds, respectively, versus 27 seconds) one month later; there was no difference for the Airtraq (27 seconds) versus the Macintosh. For each laryngoscope, skill acquisition after a brief period of learning and practice was equal; however, after one month without practice, performance levels differed. In particular, worse consistency was seen for C-MAC and A.P. Advance versus Macintosh and Airtraq.

"While the clinical significance of this is doubtful, we believe that reliable and consistent performance at laryngoscopy is desirable; for the devices that we tested, this requires regular practice," the authors write.

More information: Abstract
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