

FIG. 3a, the stylet 10 and the intubation tube 14 have been inserted into the throat of a patient. The preformed tip 18 is shown entering the vocal cords 20 and the larynx 22. Due to the general Z-Shape of the preformed tip 18, the stylet 10 allows for easy insertion into the vocal cords 20 without harmful contact therebetween.

Referring to FIG. 3b, once the tip 18 has been inserted into the larynx 22, the plunger 32 (FIG. 2) is pushed into the handle 34 so that the rod 30 is forced into the tip 18. Forcing the rod 30 into the preformed tip 18 causes the tip 18 to be deformed from its general Z-Shape into a linear shape coextensive with the linear axis 26 of the stylet 10. From this position, with a straightened tip 18, the intubation tube 14 may easily slide past the tip 18 into the larynx 22 (FIG. 3c) without the need to deform the shape of the tube 14 itself. Once the insertion end 28 of the intubation tube 14 is inside the larynx 22, the stylet 10 may be removed from the intubation tube 14, leaving the intubation tube 14 properly installed into the airway of the patient.

Thus, an intubation tube can be inserted into the airway of a patient regardless of any difficult physical attributes of the patient, such as an anterior larynx. Due to its simple construction and its relatively inexpensive parts, the stylet 10 may be disposed of after use with a patient. It is no longer necessary to attempt an insertion, remove the stylet to change the shape thereof, attempt to insert again, remove the stylet for further modifications, and etc., until the stylet has been properly shaped for insertion into the airway. It is also no longer necessary to look away from the patient during the insertion process to obtain suction to remove any foreign material from the airway. A simple movement of the hand of the operator is all that is required to provide suction at any time.

Although the present invention has been described with respect to a specific preferred embodiment thereof, various changes and modifications may be suggested to one skilled in the art, and it is intended that the present invention encompass such changes and modifications as fall within the scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

- 1. An improved intubation stylet, comprising:
 - a handle having a first and second end;
 - a flexible tube affixed to said first end of said handle,
 - said tube having a remotely adjustable preshaped tip distal said handle, said preshaped tip comprising

a first portion extending along a linear axis of said stylet, a second portion extending from said first portion and bent at an angle therefrom, and a third portion extending from said second portion and approximately parallel to said linear axis, said first, second and third portions forming a general Z-shape, said preshaped tip extending beyond an insertion end of an intubation tube such that said intubation tube does not conform to said general Z-shape during an intubation procedure;

a rod slidable received within said flexible tube, said rod terminating prior to said preshaped tip;

a plunger affixed to said rod through said handle, said plunger extending from said second end of said handle, such that as said plunger is pushed into said handle said rod passes through said flexible tube into said preshaped tip to deform said preshaped tip;

said handle having a Y-shaped channel passing there-through, said Y-shaped channel being interconnected to said preshaped tip by said flexible tube to allow suction therethrough;

said handle further having a first opening in communication with said Y-Shape channel and arranged for connection to an external suction line; and

said handle further having a second opening opposite said first opening and in communication with said Y-Shape channel to allow suction to be applied by covering said second opening.

2. The stylet of claim 1, wherein said plunger further comprises a spring to bias said plunger such that said rod allows said tip to remain in said preformed shape.

3. The stylet of claim 1, wherein said flexible tube comprises aluminum.

4. The stylet of claim 1, wherein said flexible tube comprises plastic.

5. The stylet of claim 1, wherein said preshaped tip comprises a plastic material.

6. The stylet of claim 1, wherein said rod comprises a metal wire.

7. The stylet of claim 1, wherein said rod further comprises a tip protector to prevent damage to said preshaped tip.

8. The stylet of claim 1, wherein said handle comprises aluminum.

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