

original study

The Value of Ultrasound in the Assessment – Prediction of Difficult Intubation

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Introduction

Recently, the value of ultrasound has been recognized as a promising non-invasive method of predicting the difficult airway. This is a real fact when ultrasound is combined with Mallampatti score.

Purpose

We studied the value of some ultrasound's markers in patients with Mallampatti score III, IV, in order to predict preoperatively a difficult airway.

Materials and Methods

We conducted a study of six female patients, aged between 48-60 years old, ASA II, BMI 35 – 45, four of which with Mallampatti score III and two with Mallampatti score IV [1]. None of them had received neck radiotherapy [2,3]. The thyrohyoid distance of all patients was less than six centimeters. Ultrasonically studied

- DSE : Distance from Skin to Epiglottis
- HMD : Distance between Mandible/chin and Hyoid bone.
- Tongue thickness

Results

The distance from skin to epiglottis measured less than 4.8 cm. Submandibular/hyoid bone was less than 5.3 cm, and tongue thickness 6.13 mm. Patients during laryngoscopy, were classified as IIIb

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according to Cormack-Lehane grading and intubated by using an Air-raq optical laryngoscope.

Conclusion

Ultrasound combined with clinical predictors of difficult airway can be a valuable adjunct tool in airway assessment and management. The study continues.

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