Learning from errors

A sheared stylet

S Shetty, S Power, K Afshar

Department of Paediatrics, Royal Bolton Hospital, Farnworth, UK

Correspondence to S Shetty, shettysandeep93@yahoo.co.in

DESCRIPTION

Neonatal intubating stylets (figure 1) are frequently used to assist intubation of preterm infants. Complications have been reported before.¹ We report an episode in which the plastic sheath of the stylet sheared during its removal from a 2.5 mm endotracheal (ET) tube inserted into a 520 g 24-week infant shortly after delivery. As the infant's condition improved following intubation no problem with the ET tube was initially suspected. At 60 min of age, due to moderate respiratory acidosis, the ET tube was removed. A 6 cm sheared plastic sheath was visible within it (figure 2) and ventilation parameters improved dramatically following re-intubation. We urge caution with the use of intubating stylets and would suggest the stylet is always checked for intactness after removal from the ET tube—particularly when removal has been difficult.

Figure 1 Neonatal intubating stylet.

Figure 2 6 cm of sheared plastic sheath was visible within the stylet.

Competing interests None.

REFERENCES

1. **Boyd RL**, Bradfield HA, Burton EM, *et al*. Fluoroscopy-guided retrieval of a sheared endotracheal stylet sheath from the tracheobronchial tree in a premature infant. *Pediatr Radiol* 1999;**29**:575–7.

This pdf has been created automatically from the final edited text and images.

Copyright 2010 BMJ Publishing Group. All rights reserved. For permission to reuse any of this content visit <http://group.bmj.com/group/rights-licensing/permissions>.

BMJ Case Report Fellows may re-use this article for personal use and teaching without any further permission.

Please cite this article as follows (you will need to access the article online to obtain the date of publication).

Shetty S, Power S, Afshar K. A sheared stylet. *BMJ Case Reports* 2010;10.1136/bcr.02.2010.2725, date of publication

Become a Fellow of BMJ Case Reports today and you can:

- ▶ Submit as many cases as you like
- ▶ Enjoy fast sympathetic peer review and rapid publication of accepted articles
- ▶ Access all the published articles
- ▶ Re-use any of the published material for personal use and teaching without further permission

For information on Institutional Fellowships contact consortiasales@bmjgroup.com

Visit casereports.bmj.com for more articles like this and to become a Fellow