

# **Comparison of VividTrac® videolaryngoscope in mannequins by novice users**

**Ph.D. thesis**

**Dóra Keresztes, MD**

**University of Pécs, Faculty of General Medicine  
Department of Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care**



Graduate School of Clinical Medicine

Head of the Graduate School: Lajos Bogár, MD, PhD, DSc

*Programme leader:* Zalán Szántó, MD, PhD

*Supervisors:* Bálint János Nagy, MD, PhD; Gábor László Woth, MD, PhD

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# 1. Introduction

Airway management is one of the cornerstones of critical care and anaesthesia [1]. The gold standard for endotracheal intubation (ETI) is direct laryngoscopy (DL) with a Macintosh blade. However, to achieve an intubation success rate of over 90%, at least 57 intubations must be performed with this method beforehand [2]. It is understood that only those working in specialised fields can have this level of experience. The difficulty of the DL is that the vocal cords, the oropharynx, the oral cavity and the oral opening must be aligned to bring the glottis into the visual field [3]. There are numerous factors that may render this difficult to perform, such as limited neck mobility, facial deformity, obesity. According to the definition of the ASA-American Society of Anesthesiologists, if a skilled anesthesiologist experiences difficulty in providing mask ventilation, laryngoscopy, SGAD-supraglottic airway devices, ETI, extubation or invasive airway, it is considered a difficult airway [4]. The prevalence of difficult airway in the care of critically ill patients outside the operating room can be as high as 15% [5][6]. The likelihood of failure and complications is further increased by the fact that the first provider's experience of intubation in such situations is often low. Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) is one of the most performed emergency interventions outside the operating room setting. The key point of CPR is adequate airway protection in addition to continuous, high-quality chest compressions [7]. However, in caregivers with limited experience, the use of DL may prolong the compression pause and increase the number of intubation attempts [8].

With advances in video technology, flexible fibre-optic video devices, so-called video laryngoscopes (VL), have become commercially available. To overcome the difficulties of DL, their optical system displays the machine input on a built-in or external monitor without the need to bring it directly into view. Their aim is to reduce the time and risks associated with ETI and increase the intubation success rate. An additional feature is that many VLs are equipped with a tube-guided blade to aid successful ETI [3,9,10]. The advantage of VLs is more pronounced in patients with limited intubation experience. Their use results in a better first-pass success rate (FPSR) and faster intubation time (IT) than DL. These devices may also offer an advantage over DL in difficult airways. However, depending on the type of VL used, they have also been shown to have advantages in terms of lower complication rates and better visualization of the glottis for experienced users [8,11-19].

VLs have experienced a renaissance in the context of the coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) pandemic in 2019. Airway management of respiratory failure patients infected with coronavirus (COVID-19) was often performed by providers with low intubation experience. The situation was further complicated by the need of personal protective equipment to avoid transmission of infection [20]. As the mortality rate of COVID-19 was high, CPR of infected patients was thus often required. In this scenario, ETI was of high priority [21,22]. ETI of critical ill patients with COVID-19 had an FPSR of less than 80% and more than 20% of intubation with two attempts. Therefore, the use of devices that maximize FPSR and reduce the time spent per intubation attempt even for inexperienced intubators was needed [23]. Thus, VLs were inevitably brought to the forefront to achieve a better intubation success rate, without neglecting the protection of the provider by increasing the physical distance between patient and intubator [20]. However, the protective role of VLs is not only for COVID-19 but also for other respiratory tract infections. A large proportion of patients in emergency care have an unknown infectious status, so the risk of infection to the person intubating can be reduced by the use of VLs. A wide range of VLs are commercially available. However, the clear advantages of different shapes, sizes and blade shapes are not yet clear. Many studies show that different groups of VLs may be of benefit in different airway situations, but there are also differences in their advantages and disadvantages between VLs within the same group [24,25].

## **2. Aims**

Our aim was to compare the VividTrac® VT-A100 (VT) (Vivid Medical, Palo Alto, USA) videolaryngoscope, with other commercially available VLs, a custom-made VL and the current gold standard DL in a safe, simulated environment for novice users. Although the VT which has been commercially available since 2013, it has been little or never assessed in resuscitation situations. For this purpose, we have set up a scenario simulating a difficult airway and a scenario simulating a normal and a difficult airway under continuous chest compressions.

## **2.1. Primary aim**

Our primary endpoint was to demonstrate that the use of VT in novice users would result in improved or at least not significantly worse FPSR in difficult airway and continuous chest compressions during ETI in normal and difficult airway situations.

## **2.2. Secondary aims**

We have identified the following as secondary endpoints in our analysis:

- number of successful intubation attempts, number of unsuccessful intubations
- laryngoscopy time-LT, tube insertion time-TIT, IT
- percentage of glottic opening (POGO)
- the technical difficulty, physical strength required for exploration and willingness to repeat use associated with the use of the device under investigation
- use of a tube guide
- complications: tooth injury, oesophageal intubation

We hypothesised that the use of VT would also lead to better, but at least not significantly worse, outcomes in terms of secondary endpoints compared to VLs and DL in all three scenarios we investigated.

## **3. Materials and Methods**

### **3.1. Comparison of VividTrac® videolaryngoscope in mannequins with novice users**

#### **3.1.1. Common methods**

Our investigation was carried out at the Medical Skills Lab of the Medical School, University of Pécs, among volunteer medical students. The criteria for the selection of participants were the anatomical knowledge required for airway management and the lack of real-life intubation experience. At the beginning of the study, each group took part in a 15-minute small groups hands-on training session. During practice, participants acquired manual skills and theoretical knowledge supervised by consulting specialists from the Institute of Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care at the University of Pécs Clinical Centre, thereafter the participants were given the opportunity to practice intubation with these devices in both normal and difficult airway conditions. The training took place on a Laerdal® Airway Management Trainer (Laerdal®, Stavanger, Norway).

At each practical station, the participants had equal amount of time under the supervision and instruction of an anaesthesiologist experienced in intubation with the device. During the training, students learned how to use a gum elastic bougie, an intubation stylet and how to evaluate the POGO scoring system [23], which indicates the quality of exploration. Emphasis was also placed on the understanding of the mechanism of dental injury and its importance. Following training, the students' performance was individually assessed by performing endotracheal intubation in a given airway situation with all devices in random order. The primary outcome of the study was the measurement of FPSR per device. Further, we measured the number of attempts required for successful intubation, LT, TIT, IT, POGO, recorded the occurrence of any oesophageal intubation, dental injury and the use of bougie and stylet. Finally, after the intubation attempts, we asked the students to evaluate three subjective aspects. The intubation attempt was considered failed if it lasted more than 120 seconds, if the student removed the tube from the oral cavity during the attempt or if the student recognised that oesophageal intubation had occurred. Intubation with a device was

considered failed if the oesophageal intubation was not recognized, more than 3 attempts were unsuccessful, or if the participant had given up on the subsequent intubation attempt before the 3 attempts. The time elapsed from the tool blade passing the interdental line until the best POGO was achieved, i.e. the start of tube manipulation, was defined as LT, and the time until successful intubation was defined as IT. The difference in time between IT and LT was defined as TIT. Immediately after the intubation attempts, we asked the students to grade each device on a five-point Likert scale, without ranking them. They rated the technical ease of using the devices (1= easy, 5= difficult), the physical strength required to perform the exploration (1= easy, 5= difficult) and their willingness to use the device again in the future (1=never use it again, 5= would like to use it again).

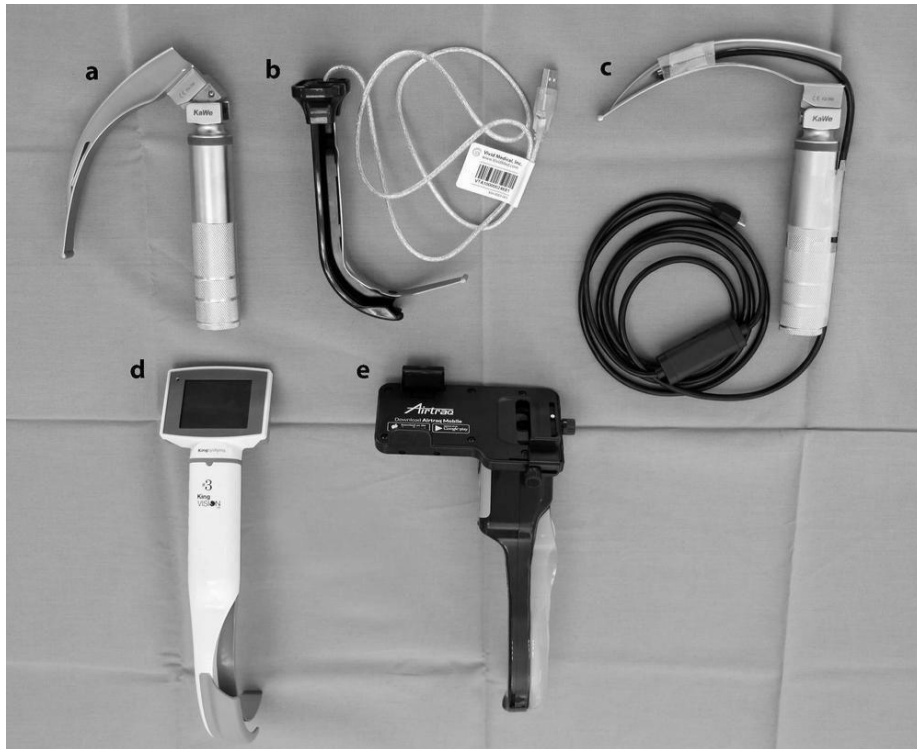
### **3.1.2 Comparison of the VividTrac® videolaryngoscope during difficult airway intubation in mannequin by novice users**

Our study was conducted under the permission of the Regional Research Ethics Committee of the University of Pécs, Hungary, No. 5825/2016. Based on previous similar studies and an estimated effect after power analysis ( $\alpha=0.05$  and  $\beta=0.1$ ), 50 students were included in the study [24,25]. The study was conducted in small group (n=5) designs. All participants provided written informed consent for the study.

The instruments included in the study were as follows (Figure 1):

- VT, adult size, with a channelled blade (Vivid Medical, Palo Alto, USA)
- King Vision® (KV) size 3 channelled blade (Ambu, Copenhagen, Denmark)
- Airtraq® (AT) with 3 channelled blade and mobile phone camera adapter (Prodol, Vizcaya, Spain)
- DL with size 3 Macintosh-blade (KaWe®, Asperg, Germany)
- Custom-made indirect laryngoscope (ID) with Macintosh size 3 blade





**Figure 1: Devices included in the study: (a) Direct laryngoscope (DL), (b) Vivid Trac® (VT), (c) Custom-made indirect laryngoscope (ID), (d) King Vision® (KV), Airtraq® (AT) [26]**

For all ETI, a 7.5 mm internal diameter cuffed plastic endotracheal tube (Mallinckrodt®, Covidien, Dublin, Ireland) was used. For real-time imaging of VT and ID, a HP (Palo Alto, California, USA) Probook laptop was used. To connect the AT, the original universal smartphone adapter (Prodol, Vizcaya, Spain) was connected to a smartphone (Xiaomi Note 9 Pro). The VT required the installation of VividVision® software and the AT required the installation of Airtraq Mobile® software. The study was performed on a Laerdal® Airway Management Trainer (Laerdal®, Stavanger, Norway). The difficult airway situation was simulated with manual in-line stabilization of the cervical spine (MILS) according to the Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) recommendation [30].

### **3.1.3 Comparison of VividTrac® videolaryngoscope in normal and difficult airways during simulated cardiopulmonary resuscitation among novice users**

Our study was performed under the permission of the Regional Research Ethics Committee of the University of Pécs, Hungary, number 7176 - PTE 2018. Our investigation was carried out at the Medical Skills Lab of the University of Pécs. Based on previous studies, we defined both the devices to be examined and the required minimum sample size [29]. Based on this, the following laryngoscopes were selected:

- VT, adult size, with a channelled blade (Vivid Medical, Palo Alto, USA) (Vivid Medical, Palo Alto, USA)
- King Vision® (KV) size 3 channelled blade (Ambu, Copenhagen, Denmark)
- DL with size 3 Macintosh-blade (KaWe®, Asperg, Germany)

VT imaging was performed using VividVision® software on a 13.3" screen size Acer Aspire V 13 laptop. Based on previous similar studies and an estimated effect size ( $\alpha=0.05$  and  $\beta=0.1$ ), 44 medical students were included in the study [27-29]. The study was performed in small group (n=5). All participants provided written informed consent for the study. The study was performed using an Advanced Life Support (ALS) simulators (Ambu® Man Advanced). Students were required to perform a successful ETI during continuous chest compression, with all devices, in a randomized order, first in a normal and then in a difficult airway situation. A 7.0 mm internal diameter cuffed plastic endotracheal tube (Mallinckrodt®, Covidien, Dublin, Ireland) was used for all intubations. Chest compressions were performed according to the standard CPR protocol. The simulator software was used to verify this [31].

- Scenario A: ETI was performed in a normal airway situation, head tilting was allowed.
- Scenario B: The ETI was performed in a difficult airway situation simulated according to the ATLS protocol using MILS

## **3.2. Statistical analysis**

Data were analysed using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) Statistics software version 25.0 (IBM Corporation, Armonk, NY, USA). Continuous and ordinal data are presented as median and interquartile range (IQR), while categorical data are presented as raw count (n) and frequency (%). Non-parametric tests were used, given that our data did not show a normal distribution based on the Kolmogorov- Smirnov and Shapiro-Wilk tests performed. To detect differences between instruments, we used Kruskal-Wallis analysis of variance (ANOVA) with post-hoc Dunn's test for the following variables: LT, TIT, IT, POGO, technical use, implementation effort and willingness to reuse. Chi-square tests were used to assess differences between devices in terms of intubation success, number of oesophageal intubations, incidence of dental injury, and use of bougie and stylet. A value of  $p < 0.05$  was considered significant.

## 4. Results

### 4.1. Comparison of the VividTrac® videolaryngoscope during difficult airway intubation in mannequin by novice users

Table 1: Results of the difficult airway study

Difficult airway	DL (n=50)	ID (n=50)	KV (n=50)	AT (n=50)	VT (n=50)
Number of attempts (n, 1/2/3)	48/1/1	47/2/1	46/4/0 <sup>¶</sup>	47/3/0	50/0/0 <sup>†</sup>
Laryngoscopy time (LT) (s)	12.16[9.05-14.4] <sup>¶¶</sup>	16.2[11.7-23.4] <sup>*†§¶</sup>	10.86[7.66-13.0] <sup>#</sup>	9.13[7.37-11.7] <sup>#</sup>	8.99[7.22-11.3] <sup>*#</sup>
Tube insertion time (TIT) (s)	6.52[4.33-12.97] <sup>†§¶</sup>	7.04[5.45-15.04] <sup>†§¶</sup>	3.31[2.05-11.68] <sup>*#</sup>	2.60[1.90-4.87] <sup>*#</sup>	3.17[2.13-4.87] <sup>*#</sup>
Intubation time (IT) (s)	19.0[14.97-26.1] <sup>†§¶</sup>	23.4[19.0-35.5] <sup>†§¶</sup>	15.72[11.5-23.1] <sup>#</sup>	12.8[9.62-16.5] <sup>*#</sup>	12.7[10.0-15.8] <sup>*#</sup>
POGO (%)	40[20-60] <sup>†§¶</sup>	45[25-55] <sup>†§¶</sup>	75[60-85] <sup>*#</sup>	75[60-85] <sup>*#</sup>	62.5[50-90] <sup>*#</sup>
Ease of technical use (1-5)	4[3-4] <sup>†§¶</sup>	4[3-4] <sup>†§¶</sup>	2[1-3] <sup>*#</sup>	2[2-3] <sup>*#</sup>	2[1-2] <sup>*#</sup>
Ease of physical use (1-5)	4[3-5] <sup>†§¶</sup>	4[3-5] <sup>†§¶</sup>	2[1-3] <sup>*#</sup>	2[2-3] <sup>*#</sup>	2[1-2] <sup>*#</sup>
Willingness of reuse (1-5)	3[2-4] <sup>†¶</sup>	3[2-3] <sup>†¶</sup>	5[4-5] <sup>*#§</sup>	3[3-4] <sup>†¶</sup>	5[4-5] <sup>*#§</sup>
Use of bougie (n)	10 <sup>†§¶</sup>	9 <sup>†§¶</sup>	0 <sup>#</sup>	0 <sup>#</sup>	0 <sup>#</sup>
Use of stylet (n)	5 <sup>#†§¶</sup>	11 <sup>*†§¶</sup>	0 <sup>#</sup>	0 <sup>#</sup>	0 <sup>#</sup>
Dental injury (n)	32 <sup>#§</sup>	41 <sup>*†¶</sup>	35 <sup>#§</sup>	39 <sup>*†¶</sup>	35 <sup>#§</sup>
Oesophageal intubation (n)	1	0	0	0	0

Data are reported as the median [IQR] or as numbers (n)  
 AT Airtraq®, DL Direct laryngoscope (Macintosh), ID Custom-made, improvised laryngoscope, KV King Vision®, POGO Percent of Glottic Opening, VT VividTrac®  
 \*Significant difference (P < 0.05) compared to DL; #Significant difference (P < 0.05) compared to ID; †Significant difference (P < 0.05) compared to KV; §Significant difference (P < 0.05) compared to AT; ¶Significant difference (P < 0.05) compared to VT

The FPSR as the primary outcome of our study was highest for VT. Comparing DL with VL, there was no significant difference in FPSR. However, within the group of VLs, a significantly better FPSR was achieved with VT than with KV (p < 0.05). Failed intubation was not recorded for any device. The VT performed better in terms of LT compared to all devices and achieved the ideal POGO significantly faster compared to the ID and DL (p < 0.05). However, our ID underperformed in this respect compared to all devices (p < 0.05). Among the VLs, KV, AT and VT achieved faster TIT compared to ID and DL (p < 0.05). In terms of IT, the commercial VLs gave the best results. AT and VT were significantly faster

than DL ( $< 0.05$ ). However, ID underperformed the other VLs ( $P < 0.05$ ). Comparing all the devices, we registered the shortest IT when VT was used. With the exception of ID, all VLs had better POGO scores than DL ( $P < 0.05$ ). The technical and physical ease of use of all commercially available VLs was rated as easier by participants compared to DL and ID ( $P < 0.05$ ). ID and DL were rated as similarly difficult to use. For VT and KV, participants showed significantly greater willingness to use the device repeatedly compared to the other laryngoscopes ( $p < 0.05$ ). Bougie and stylet use was only required for ID and DL. Stylet was used significantly more often by participants during ID than during DL ( $p < 0.05$ ). Dental injury was observed in more than half of the intubation attempts for all devices. However, there was a significantly higher incidence of dental injury when using AT and ID compared to the other laryngoscopes ( $p < 0.05$ ). Oesophageal intubation was only experienced once when using DL.

## 4.2. Comparison of the VividTrac® videolaryngoscope in normal airway intubation during simulated cardiopulmonary resuscitation among novice users

**Table 2. Results of the study under continuous chest compression in a normal airway situation**

Normal airway	DL (n=44)	KV (n=44)	VT (n=44)
Number of attempts (n, 1/2/3)	30/8/6	35/6/3	37/5/2
Laryngoscopy time (s)	10.09 [7.57-13.35]	9.36 [7.31-14.91]	9.3 [6.05-15.13]
Tube insertion time (s)	7.4[5.84-14]	3.35 [2.33-8.7] <sup>¶</sup>	11.69 [5.3-19.61] <sup>†</sup>
Intubation time (s)	19.19 [14.28-27.09] <sup>†</sup>	15.2 [11.1-23.9] <sup>*¶</sup>	23.08 [15.9-33.2] <sup>†</sup>
POGO (%)	75 [60, 90]	75 [70-80]	60 [50-90]
Ease of technical use (1-5)	2 [1-4]	3 [2-4]	2 [2-4]
Ease of physical use (1-5)	3 [2-4]	2 [2-3]	2 [1-3]
Willingness of reuse (1-5)	4 [3-5]	3 [2-4]	4 [2-5]
Use of bougie (n)	11 <sup>¶†</sup>	0*	0*
Dental injury (n)	0	1	0
Oesophageal intubation (n)	11 <sup>¶†</sup>	1*	1*

**Results of our studies under continuous chest compression in a normal airway situation. Data are reported as the median [IQR] or as numbers (n). DL: Direct laryngoscope (Macintosh), KV: King Vision, POGO: Percent of glottic opening, VT: VividTrac**  
**\*Significant difference (P < 0.05) compared to the DL, †Significant difference (P < 0.05) compared to the KV., ¶Significant difference (P < 0.05) compared to the VT.**

Under normal airway conditions, with continuous chest compressions, no significant difference in the number of successful intubation attempts was found between devices, but the best FPSR was observed with VT. Failed intubations were not detected for any device. VT was found to be the fastest in the LT required to reach the optimal POGO value, but no

significant difference was found between any of the devices compared to the others. The fastest TIT was achieved with KV, which showed a significantly better result compared to VT ( $p < 0.05$ ). For IT, KV was also the fastest among the devices tested ( $p < 0.05$ ). However, VT was no longer significantly slower than DL for either TIT or IT. No significant difference was found in the POGO value, between the laryngoscopes. When evaluating subjective parameters, students did not find significant differences in the physical and technical usability of the instruments, while the VT achieved the best overall score in this respect. Participants showed similar levels of willingness to reuse all tools. Bougie use occurred only with the DL ( $p < 0.05$ ). Among complications, dental injury was detected only once, during the use of the KV, while oesophageal intubation occurred significantly more often with the DL than with the KV or VT ( $p < 0.05$ ).

### 4.3. Comparison of the VividTrac® videolaryngoscope in difficult airway intubation during simulated cardiopulmonary resuscitation among novice users

**Table 3. Results of the study under continuous chest compression in a difficult airway situation**

Difficult airway	DL (n=44)	KV (n=44)	VT (n=44)
Number of attempts (n 1/2/3)	35/4/5	40/3/1	35/2/7
Laryngoscopy time (s)	13.7 [8.37-18.89] <sup>¶</sup>	14.52 [10.72-26.05] <sup>¶</sup>	8.04 [6.33-14.33] <sup>*†</sup>
Tube insertion time (s)	8.15 [4.4-17.09] <sup>†</sup>	4.76 [2.05-11.42] <sup>*¶</sup>	8.09 [4.03-18.64] <sup>†</sup>
Intubation time (s)	23.39 [16.93-34.31]	21.91 [14.76-39.51]	20.83 [12.65-39.45]
POGO (%)	60 [40-80]	67.5 [50-80]	60 [40-76.3]
Ease of technical use (1-5)	3 [2-4]	3 [2-4]	2 [1-4]
Ease of physical use (1-5)	4 [2-4] <sup>¶</sup>	3 [2-4]	2 [1-3] <sup>*</sup>
Willingness of reuse (1-5)	3 [2-5]	3 [2-4]	4 [2-5]
Use of bougie (n)	17 <sup>¶†</sup>	0 <sup>*</sup>	0 <sup>*</sup>
Dental injury (n)	0	0	0
Oesophageal intubation (n)	7 <sup>¶†</sup>	0 <sup>*</sup>	0 <sup>*</sup>

**Results of our studies under continuous chest compression in a difficult airway situation. Data are reported as the median [IQR] or as numbers (n). DL: Direct laryngoscope (Macintosh), KV: King Vision, POGO: Percent of glottic opening, VT: VividTrac**  
**\*Significant difference (P < 0.05) compared to the DL, †Significant difference (P < 0.05) compared to the KV., ¶Significant difference (P < 0.05) compared to the VT.**

In difficult airway conditions with continuous chest compressions, no significant difference was found in the number of attempts required for successful intubation between devices. No failed intubations were recorded. In terms of LT required to achieve optimal POGO, VT was significantly faster compared to KV and DL (p < 0.05). However, in TIT, KV performed better compared to the other devices tested (p < 0.05). VT was not significantly worse compared to either device in this case. However, there was no longer a significant difference



between the laryngoscopes in terms of IT because of the LT and TIT results. The shortest IT was measured for VT. No significantly better POGO was achieved by the students when using any of the devices. When evaluating the subjective parameters, the participants rated the devices as having similar technical difficulty to use, but required significantly less effort to use VT compared to DL. There was no difference between the laryngoscopes in terms of willingness to reuse. Soft guides were used only in DL ( $p < 0.05$ ). No dental injuries were recorded and oesophageal intubation occurred only in DL ( $p < 0.05$ ).

## **5. Discussion**

### **5.1. Limitations**

In evaluating our results, the following limitations should be considered. Our data come from a monocentric study where students used the tools under simulation conditions. The results only refer to the anatomical conditions of the simulators we used. The simulation conditions used do not match and are not 100% transferable to real clinical practice. Complications such as device humidification or contamination with mucus could not occur and no complications other than dental injury and oesophageal intubation could be simulated. Nevertheless, the use of mannequin model is widespread, as skills and procedures can be learned and performed without endangering the patient. Participants performed the measured exercise after a 30-minute break following a 15-minute training session. For DL, the POGO value depended on the students' subjective perception. The occurrence of dental injuries was marked as yes or no. High pressure on the teeth was only indicated by the Laerdal® Airway Management Trainer with a "click" sound. This was not possible on the ALS simulator, so the occurrence of dental injury was based on subjective judgement. Within an experiment, the number of dental injuries and the degree of force exposure were not marked. The Likert scale was used to obtain feedback from the participants in the study, and more detailed qualitative data were not collected.

For our intubation study with continuous chest compressions, in addition to the above limiting factors, when evaluating our results, we must also take into account that our measurements were not performed on the same mannequin model as those on which the training was

conducted. In addition, the students did not have the opportunity to intubate on the ALS simulator prior to the measurements.

## **5.2. Comparison of the VividTrac® videolaryngoscope during difficult airway intubation in mannequin by novice users**

Effective ETI with the indirect technique is possible after only a short training period, even when simulating a difficult airway using manual in-line stabilization [32-35]. In our experience, a short training period of 15 min per device was sufficient to achieve a high FPSR above 90% for all devices we tested. This value was 100% for VT. VL is designed to facilitate ETI. For commercially available VLs, including VT, we measured significantly shorter LT and TIT compared to DL. The advantage of the curved, narrow antero-posterior diameter blade has been demonstrated in other studies in difficult airway [36]. The faster intubation may have been contributed by the better POGO value achieved with these devices. In VT, there was less dental injury and complications such as oesophageal intubation could be avoided with video techniques. And a blade with a tube guide eliminates the use of additional devices (bougie and stylet). The popularity of a particular laryngoscopic device depends mainly on the user's previous experience and subjective factors. Our results are in line with the literature, which shows that intubators found it easier to use VLs compared to DLs [27,36-40]. Accordingly, novice users would prefer to use VT and KV again for an ETI.

## **5.3. Comparison of the VividTrac® videolaryngoscope in endotracheal intubation during simulated cardiopulmonary resuscitation among novice users**

The performance of ETI during CPR requires even greater skill than under normal conditions [17]. One reason for this is that difficult airways are more likely to occur under these conditions, even for experienced intubators. The development and use of devices to reduce intubation time is a real need. This is reinforced by the fact that in practice, especially in emergency care, providers with little intubation experience are often forced to perform CPR and airway protection during this procedure. For them, the use of VL may provide an alternative.

### **5.3.1. Testing under normal airway conditions**

Again, the highest value for FPSR as a primary outcome was achieved using VT. Although the advantage of VT's narrow antero-posterior diameter was well demonstrated in LT, however, due to a slower TIT, we did not find a markedly faster IT using it, as was the case for the achievable POGO value. Thanks to the video technique, even with a continuously moving chest, the tube inserted through the tube guide flap could be well followed, avoiding oesophageal intubation. The VT received high scores from users.

### **5.3.2 Testing under difficult airway conditions**

Considering that CPR is an emergency intervention, the incidence rate of difficult airway is twenty times higher than in elective cases [41]. Short- and long-term survival is determined by the time spent before intubated. Therefore, it is important to choose a device with a high probability of performing a successful ETI from the first intubation attempt, preferably without interrupting chest compressions [14,17]. In our study, we still recorded an FPSR of 80% in difficult airway conditions with continuous chest compressions. By using the VT narrow blade, we measured significantly faster LT compared to the laryngoscope in the other studies, but as before, the slower TIT did not result in significantly faster TI, but at the same time, it was not worse. With MILS, despite continuous chest compressions, head movement was limited, so presumably this was the reason why we found no significant difference in POGO achieved with the devices. The aforementioned advantages of video technology in terms of complications were also evident in this case. The use of VLs and, within this, VT was found to be the most user-friendly by intubators.

## **6. Conclusion**

A comparison of our results with the literature shows that there is no unanimous opinion on VLs as a summary group as to which aspects are advantageous over DL, regardless of the practical experience of the user. This is also true when considering only a small group of VLs, such as the group of VLs with or without a tube guide. Therefore, they should be compared individually. The different properties of VLs should all be considered when choosing a VL. Knowing the nature of difficult intubation can make our choice easier. A device with a

reduced mouth opening capacity may have a fast TIT if it is difficult to insert into the oral cavity due to the blade design and vice versa. In the case of a deviation in the primary curvature of the airway, the tube guide may make successful ETI difficult. Each VL design has its own advantages and disadvantages, as well as its area of application where it may have an advantage over other VLs. There have been studies and summary studies that can help to select the right VL for the purpose [1,24,42,43]. The range of VLs on the commercial market is constantly expanding. And new devices cannot be pigeonholed, so comparative, exploratory studies are needed for each. There is very little literature on the VT under our scrutiny, but our study found encouraging results, with significantly better FPSR, LT, TIT, IT and POGO compared to DL in MILS simulated difficult airway and no worse results than DL in either normal or difficult airway during continuous chest compressions. And the measured LT and positive user ratings in all scenarios are outstanding for VT. Based on these data, further studies towards clinical trials may be worthwhile in the future to explore areas where the use of VT may be of benefit to both patients and users.

## **7. Theses**

### **7.1. Pimary aim**

In our study, using VT in a difficult airway situation, we have been able to demonstrate that it achieves a better FPSR than DL, ID or other commercially available VLs. During intubation with continuous chest compressions, we recorded the highest FPSR with VT in normal airway and no significantly worse outcome in difficult airway compared to the other devices. We were able to demonstrate the same success rate as DL for ETI from the first trial.

### **7.2. Secondary aim**

#### **7.2.1. Comparison of the VividTrac® videolaryngoscope during difficult airway intubation in mannequin by novice users**

- In a difficult airway situation, it was demonstrated that the highest FPSR was achieved with VT compared to the other devices tested.

- It was demonstrated that the VT achieved the fastest LT and IT and also outperformed all other devices tested in terms of TIT.
- We measured a better POGO using VT than using DL and ID, while the POGO achieved with this device was not significantly worse than with the other commercially available VLs.
- We confirmed that VT was easier to use for novice users compared to DL and ID and was found to be similarly easy in both technical and physical terms compared to other commercially available VL. Thus, we demonstrated a high reusability rate for VT in a heavy airway environment.
- We also proved that the use of VT did not require the use of a rigid or soft guide for successful intubation, similar to other devices utilising a tube-guided flap.
- We demonstrated that the use of VT did not result in a higher rate of dental injury compared to the other devices tested and found a significantly lower complication rate in this regard compared to ID. No oesophageal intubation was recorded with VT.

### **7.2.2. Comparison of the VividTrac® videolaryngoscope in normal airway intubation during simulated cardiopulmonary resuscitation among novice users**

- We showed that using VT with continuous chest compressions did not result in failed intubations with a normal airway.
- In terms of TIT and thus IT, no advantage of VT over the other commercially available VLs tested could be demonstrated, however, the fastest LT was measured for VT. And compared to the gold standard DL, it did not show a worse result in any of the above times.
- We have confirmed that the POGO value obtained using VT is not significantly worse than any of the devices tested.
- Also, in the above scenario, we were able to show that novice users found VT easy to use both technically and physically and would prefer to use it again in a similar situation than KV.

-The use of a soft guide was not required, as in the other VL with a tube guide blade tested.

- In terms of complications, we demonstrated that there was no significant incidence of tooth injury or oesophageal intubation with VT compared to DL, which had significantly more oesophageal intubations than the VLs studied.

### **7.2.3. Comparison of the VividTrac® videolaryngoscope in difficult airway intubation during simulated cardiopulmonary resuscitation among novice users**

- Compared to the other tools tested, we showed that the use of VT did not result in any ETI failures.

- We confirmed that better IT and significantly faster LT can be achieved with VT compared to the other tools tested. And in terms of TIT, it was not significantly slower compared to the other tested VL.

- It was shown that the POGO value achieved with VT was not significantly worse than the commercially available VL tested and the same quality of detectability could be achieved as with DL.

- Again, users rated VT as the easiest tool to use in all aspects tested and would most prefer to use it again in a similar situation compared to the other tools tested.

- We confirmed that the complication rate is not higher with VT than with the other devices tested. Similar to CT, tooth injury and oesophageal intubation were not recorded with VT, in contrast to DL, where the incidence of oesophageal intubation was significantly higher than with VT.

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## 9. Publications

### Publications related to the Thesis

Rendeki S., **Keresztes D.**, Woth G., Mérei Á., Rozanovic M., Rendeki M., Farkas J., MühlD., Nagy B.; Comparison of VividTrac®, Airtraq®, King Vision®, Macintosh Laryngoscope and a Custom-Made Videólaryngoscope for difficult and normal airways in mannequins by novices. BMC Anesthesiol. 2017 May 26;17(1):68. doi: 10.1186/s12871-017-0362-y.

\* = equal contribution, **IF: 1,788, IF based on decision of first authors IF: 0,894**

**Keresztes D.**, Mérei Á., Rozanovic M., Nagy E., Kovács-Ábrahám Z., Oláh J., Maróti P., Rendeki Sz., Nagy B., Woth G.; Comparison of VividTrac, King Vision and Macintosh laryngoscopes in normal and difficult airways during simulated cardiopulmonary resuscitation among novices.

PLoS One 16 : 11 Paper 0260140 , 9 p. (2021)

**IF:3,752**

**Sum of original publications related impact factors: 4,646**

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**IF: 2,5**

**Sum of impact factors in total: 9,989**



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