

# Direct Endotracheal Salvage Catherization (DESC) Method: Orotracheal Intubation without Laryngoscopy

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An alternative method for orotracheal intubation was reported for use during a rescue endotracheal intubation without any laryngoscopic devices. Only an endotracheal tube was used, and the procedure was named "Direct Endotracheal Salvage Catherization (DESC)", without laryngoscope.

This non-validated method was used in a difficult case of an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest case with a laryngoscopy device problem. The victim was at high risk for vomiting (full stomach). The airways should have been protected using a validated method (laryngeal mask, retrograde intubation, cricothyrotomy), but was delayed (at least 10 minutes) because the devices still were in the ambulance that was on its way to the scene. The emergency physician decided to make a blind orotracheal intubation<sup>1</sup> using an intubating introducer.<sup>2</sup> The neck was extended and the stylet was curved a little more than usual. It was introduced in the mouth laterally to the tongue. Using touch and gentle rotation, the epiglottis and larynx were located; the device was introduced with the endotracheal tube preloaded on the proximal part of the introducer.

This method is not recommended in most cases, considering many other techniques have been validated for the management of difficult airways and the classic contraindication of the intubating introducer (lack of visualization of epiglottis is obvious in blind intubation).<sup>1,3-5</sup> However, this alternative technique seemed easy, theoretically safe, and a fast method to protect the airway without any special devices available. In this case, the DESC method should be attempted until the alternative devices are ready. It also could be helpful to use this salvage method during a rescue mission with a limited emergency package, or in case of an incomplete obstruction of mouth opening. After mandatory validation studies from a different team, a rescue kit using the DESC method also could be proposed (one for men, one for women, one for children, that are pre-lubricated).

## References

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