

## Correspondence

### A Device for Intratracheal Drug Administration

Intratracheal administration of drugs in the life support setting has recently gained support.<sup>1</sup> Epinephrine, atropine, lidocaine, naloxone, diazepam, and other agents may be safely and efficaciously given by this route.<sup>2</sup> We have devised a system, using two commercially available components, to permit the instillation of drugs from syringes, with or without needles, directly into the endotracheal or tracheostomy tube without disconnection from the ventilation circuit, interruption

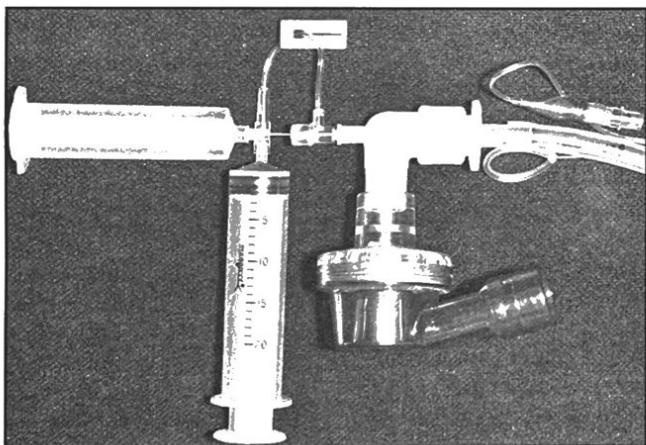


Figure 1 - Intratracheal Drug Administration Device

of ventilation, or loss of PEEP. It is compatible with bag-valve devices, mechanical ventilators and anesthesia circuits.

To construct the device, an intravenous T-port (Quest Medical, Carrollton, Texas) is connected to a capnograph elbow (Dryden Corp., Indianapolis, Indiana) as illustrated in Figure 1. The flow of injectate is directed down the lumen of the tracheal tube. We recommend synchronous injection and positive - pressure ventilation to facilitate delivery of the drug to the distal airways.

#### References

1. American Heart Association: Advanced Cardiac Life Support. 1987
2. Safar P: Cardiopulmonary Cerebral Resuscitation: Basic and Advanced Life Support, in Schwartz G, Safar P, Styone J, et al (eds): Principals and Practice of Emergency Medicine. 2nd ed., Philadelphia, WB Saunders Co., 1986.

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