

Picture Story

Sheared sheath of a stylet: Early detection avoiding disaster

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Case report

An emergency intubation with a 2.5 mm endotracheal tube was carried out on a neonate born at 25 weeks of gestation weighing 900g. A neonatal stylet with a plastic sheath was used. It was difficult to remove the stylet following intubation. It was noted that a piece of its sheath was missing when the stylet was removed (Figure 1). Endotracheal tube was removed and missing piece of the sheath was found inside the endotracheal tube (Figure 2)



Figure 1: Stylet with broken sheath



Figure 2: Broken sheath inside endotracheal tube and the stylet

Discussion

Sheared sheath is a potential complication with the use of stylets^{1,2}. Broken sheath would have lodged in the tracheobronchial tree if the baby was ventilated without detection leading to a potential lethal outcome. It is important to check for intact sheath following intubation.

References

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