

## **How to choose a video laryngoscope.**

For a long time Glidescope has been the only available system for video laryngoscopy dedicated to intubation. Glidescope was an excellent device in its time. During the last few years other models have become available.

Basically you can divide them into the following three categories:

1. The devices with an external separate and often large monitor. The laryngoscope handle is connected to the screen by a wire, thus sending the image to the screen. This system is large, not very flexible or portable and the wire can be a nuisance. Glidescope and Storz market these products. They are extremely expensive and specifically used as rescue device in failed intubation situations. Often mounted on a “difficult airway equipment cart”. Prices start from 10.000 euro, for a basic set this is more likely to be in the region of 25.000 euro for the complete intubation range.
2. The “screen on the handle” devices. McGrath was the first scopes which successfully marketed a “screen on the handle” device and this went on to be quite successful. Nowadays McGrath remains the main manufacturer although, competition is growing. These device is easy to handle, portable and the screen is often very clear. It is safe to conclude that a larger screen, larger than life gives no advantage in intubation at all. The screen on the handle gives a more natural angle of view and is easier to use as there is no wire attached. However, the main manufactures are not keeping up with times by adding, for example, photo or video options. Also, these devise are still far too expensive for use on a daily basis. The devise itself ranges from between 2500 up to and over 10.000 euro. The disposable blades start around 7 up to and over 30 euros.
3. Video device with a tube guidance. These are devices in which the tube is placed and video guided to the vocal cords/trachea. Pentax AWS and Kingvision for example. These devices never became very popular. Mainly because of anatomic variation it is hard to make a one-fits-all design. Prices of disposable are very high, often more than 20 euro.

AirTraq deserves a special mention. A fully disposable intubation device, working with a lens system. Although more recently a video (no disposable part) is available. The idea being that video laryngoscopes are extremely expensive and since mostly used as back-up rescue device in failed intubation so it is not being used so often. A disposable device could be more cost effective. The idea is a good one, but especially since the device has a bit of a learning curve which does not comply with the fact that it is only being incidentally used at present. Meaning, in the rare cases that a physician may need or want to use it his inexperience with the device makes the chance of successful intubation lower. Cost is just under a 100 euro a piece for the disposable AirTraq. Since it comes in 6 different sizes, you still require to have at least 12 available so one of each size and one spare.

So what you really want is a versatile device, suitable for video and direct laryngoscope, easily portable but of good quality. A screen on the handle device is the obvious choice. Our Medan screen on the handle device has all the pros but none on the cons. It is designed to replace the traditional flashlight direct laryngoscopy. Therefore, not in direct competition with the more expensive Video laryngoscopy devices which are currently available in the market. Having said that, it can without a doubt be compared in function and we feel confident to claim that the success rate of the first pass with our Medan laryngoscope will be at the same level or even better than the other screen on the handle or guided video laryngoscope currently in use. It will also most probably be on a par with Glidescope and Storz. (Maybe only with the exception of extremely large patients)

And all this at a fraction of the standard prices.

The first pass rate will be estimated at 10 times better than in direct laryngoscopy. The advantages over direct laryngoscopy for the patient, as well for the physicians, are countless.

Medan has all the options.

- Direct laryngoscopy, blade sizing range available from baby to adult)
- Video laryngoscopy is simple using the same blades.
- Tube guide laryngoscopy with the specially designed grooved blades.
- Easy (two button) operation
- Photo/video functionality.
- Enough battery for approx. 250 intubation on one charge.