

## Broken bougie: Prevention is better than cure!

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Dear Editor,

We read with great interest the article by Singh *et al.*<sup>[1]</sup> on the accidental breakage of the bougie while using it for tracheal intubation.

Pre-check of equipment holds great importance, and before using a bougie (especially gum elastic bougie, including unused ones), the expiry date should be rechecked as this affects the tensile strength.<sup>[2]</sup> They need to be stored carefully, avoiding sunlight or excessive heat while safeguarding against bending or folding.<sup>[3]</sup> The authors avoided lubrication, but water-based jelly prevents undue friction with resultant damage.<sup>[2,3]</sup> If the operator encounters resistance while threading the tube, withdrawing the tube by 1–2 cm, followed by rotating the bougie by 90°, would aid in the successful placement of the tube. ‘Hold-up’ should not be aimed for, and mid-tracheal placement of bougie is preferred to avoid injuries. Resistance to removal and subsequent breakage in this case may be due to bougie placement in the distal bronchi. Furthermore, during the removal of the bougie, its distal angulation might hinge onto the tube, presenting increased resistance, which can be successfully managed by rotating the bougie by 90°.<sup>[4]</sup>

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