

» Literature List

Publications regarding Ventinova Medical's concepts and products are increasing. This list comprises published literature on clinical use, pre-clinical validation and technological development.

Specific features of FCV® and EVA® described are indicated:



Higher Efficiency



Lower Energy



Small Lumen



General Surgery

Evone – Clinical Studies – General Surgery

The workgroup of Prof. Schumann performed a crossover randomized controlled trial in lung-healthy patients comparing FCV® to VCV. They revealed a higher efficiency of ventilation when using FCV®, even after short-term application. With similar ventilation settings, FCV® resulted in a 9% higher arterial oxygenation and 5% lower arterial CO₂ concentration (P<0.001). The mean tracheal pressure was higher during FCV® (+10 %; P<0.001), with comparable tidal volumes, inspiratory plateau pressure and end-expiratory pressure. This study indicates that FCV® shows potential benefits to allow lung protective ventilation.

J. Weber, J. Schmidt, L. Straka, S. Wirth, S. Schumann. Flow-controlled ventilation improves gas exchange in lung-healthy patients – a randomised interventional cross-over study. Acta Anaesthesiol Scand. 2019;00:1–8



The workgroup of Prof. Schumann published the first randomized controlled trial on the effect of FCV® during ventilation of obese and morbidly obese patients undergoing elective bariatric surgery. 23 patients were ventilated in a crossover design for seven minutes



with FCV[®] and VCV. Even after this short application of FCV[®], notable differences could be detected: With comparable respiratory variables, FCV[®] improved lung recruitment, as demonstrated by a significantly reduced intraoperative loss of both end-expiratory lung volume (Δ EELV) and mean lung volume (Δ MLV) as compared to VCV (Δ EELV: FCV[®] -126 \pm 207 ml; VCV -316 \pm 254 ml; $p < 0.001$; Δ MLV: FCV[®]: -108.2 \pm 198.6 ml; VCV -315.8 \pm 252.1 ml; $p < 0.001$). These effects might be partially attributed to the increased mean tracheal pressure caused by the linearized pressure decline during FCV[®].

The authors conclude that 'the recruitment effect (...) and the elevated P_{mean} during FCV[®] may help prevent atelectasis and hypoxemia during mechanical ventilation in obese patients.'

J. Weber, L. Straka, S. Borgmann, J. Schmidt, S. Wirth, S. Schumann. Flow-controlled ventilation (FCV) improves regional ventilation in obese patients – a randomized controlled crossover trial. BMC Anesthesiol 2020;20(1):24

The workgroup of Prof. Schumann was the first to execute a comparative study, evaluating a commonly applied VCV protocol with FCV[®] mode by Evone[®]. This study in healthy pigs shows that FCV[®] improves lung aeration via elevated mean tracheal pressure and consequently improves arterial oxygenation (+10%, $P = 0.002$) at unaltered positive end-expiratory pressure (PEEP) and peak inspiratory pressure (PIP), while using a lower minute volume (-21%, $P = 0.04$). Moreover, these findings suggest the FCV[®] mode provided by Evone is a new approach for protective lung ventilation.

J. Schmidt, C. Wenzel, M. Mahn, S. Spassov, H.C. Schmitz, S. Borgmann, Z. Lin, J. Haberstroh, S. Meckel, S. Eiden, S. Wirth, H. Buerkle and S. Schumann. Improved lung recruitment and oxygenation during mandatory ventilation with a new expiratory ventilation assistance device: A controlled interventional trial in healthy pigs. Eur J Anaesthesiol. 2018 Oct;35(10):736-744

In this randomized cross-over pilot study, FCV[®] was compared to VCV in eight lung-healthy patients for 15 minutes of ventilation. Upon baseline ventilation with VCV, patients were either ventilated with FCV[®] followed by VCV, or the other way round. Ventilation settings were chosen to be comparable between FCV[®] and VCV, and recruitment maneuvers were performed before changing between modes. All patients were adequately ventilated, with respiratory and hemodynamic parameter within normal range. While no significant difference in arterial oxygenation was detected, the authors report an improved CO₂ removal during FCV[®] while using a comparable minute volume, indicating a higher ventilation efficiency.



Furthermore, they state that recruitment maneuvers may have masked intrinsic differences between the ventilation modes, and that more data in larger patient groups is needed to evaluate the effects of FCV[®] compared to VCV.

T. Sebrechts, S.G. Morrison, T. Schepens, V. Saldien. Flow-controlled ventilation with the Evone ventilator and Tritube versus volume-controlled ventilation. Eur J Anaesthesiol. 2021 Feb 1;38(2):209-211. doi: 10.1097/EJA.0000000000001326

One lung ventilation

Evone – In-vivo Study – One Lung Ventilation

This is the first study reporting the use of FCV[®] during one lung ventilation (OLV) in a clinically relevant model of thoracic surgery. The authors compared the effects of FCV[®] versus conventional VCV during OLV in normo- and hypovolemic pigs. While there was no measurable effect on oxygenation, FCV[®] allowed ventilation with higher efficiency during normovolemia, as a significantly lower minute volume could be applied. Furthermore, during FCV[®] the mechanical power applied to the porcine lungs was reduced, which might potentially lower the risk of postoperative pulmonary complications.

J. Wittenstein, M. Scharffenberg, X. Ran, D. Keller, P. Michler, S. Tauer, R. Theilen, T. Kiss, T. Bluth, T. Koch, M. Gama de Abreu, R. Huhle. Comparative effects of flow vs. volume-controlled one-lung ventilation on gas exchange and respiratory system mechanics in pigs. Intensive Care Med Exp. 2020 Dec 18;8(Suppl 1):24. doi: 10.1186/s40635-020-00308-0



Intensive Care

Evone – Clinical cases – Intensive Care

Dr. Bergold and colleagues present the first application of FCV[®] to a 22-year old patient with traumatic brain injury and chest trauma who was admitted to the ICU with severe acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS; P/F ratio 49 mmHg). As ventilation parameters did not improve with volume controlled ventilation and continuous lateral rotational therapy, and extracorporeal membrane oxygenation was contraindicated, FCV[®] ventilation using Evone was considered as last alternative treatment option. FCV[®] was individually optimized based on the patient's respiratory system compliance, and led to a significant improved lung condition within a few hours (P/F ratio 177, 270 and 397 mmHg after 1, 12 and 24 hours, respectively). After 77 hours of FCV[®] ventilation the patient could enter



a weaning procedure. He was discharged to a rehabilitation facility two weeks later in a favorable neurological condition.

M. Bergold, T. Otterburg, J. Woitzik, C. Byhahn. Flow-controlled ventilation – a novel approach to treating severe acute respiratory distress syndrome. Abstract presented at WAMM 2019

Evone – In-Vivo Studies – Intensive Care

This randomised controlled study by the workgroup of Prof. Schumann demonstrates an increased ventilation efficiency and lung protective effects by FCV[®] compared to VCV in an experimental model of acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS). With similar PEEP, peak pressures, tidal volumes and respiratory rates FCV[®] significantly improved oxygenation (PaO₂ +47%, P=0.035), while using a 26% lower minute volume (P<0.001). In the dependent lung parts FCV[®] resulted in more normally aerated lung tissue (24% vs 10%; P=0.004) and less non-aerated lung tissue (23% vs 38%; P=0.033) as compared to VCV. Furthermore, lung damage was reduced by FCV[®] as shown by the presence of thinner alveolar walls (5.5 µm vs 7.8 µm; P<0.001), a reduced amount of infiltrating inflammatory cells (20/field vs 32/field; P<0.001), and a higher concentration of surfactant protein A in the bronchoalveolar lavage fluid (1.1 vs 1.0; P=0.039). The authors state that they feel confident that their results 'provide evidence for an attenuated lung injury after FCV[®].' Further correspondence regarding this study elucidates on pressure measurements during FCV[®] and the respective calculation of respiratory system compliance.

J. Schmidt, C. Wenzel, S. Spassov, S. Borgmann, Z. Lin, J. Wollborn, J. Weber, J. Haberstroh, S. Meckel, S. Eiden, S. Wirth, S. Schumann. Flow-Controlled Ventilation Attenuates Lung Injury in a Porcine Model of Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome: A Preclinical Randomized Controlled Study. Crit Care Med 2020; 48:e241–e248 Commented by D. Enk, P. Spraidler, J. Abram, T. Barnes. Pressure Measurements in Flow-Controlled Ventilation. Crit Care Med. 2020 Dec;48(12):e1359–e1360. doi: 10.1097/CCM.0000000000004561. PMID: 33255124. Response by J. Schmidt, S. Schumann. The authors reply. Crit Care Med. 2020 Dec;48(12):e1360–e1361. doi: 10.1097/CCM.0000000000004653. PMID: 33255125.

In a randomized porcine study, Spraidler and colleagues demonstrated that FCV[®] significantly improved gas exchange and maintained better lung aeration during 10 hours of ventilation, as compared to pressure controlled ventilation (PCV). Ventilation settings for FCV[®] were individually optimized through compliance-guided pressure settings, while PCV settings were chosen according to the standard of care for lung-protective ventilation. Results showed a significantly better oxygenation in the FCV[®] group (+24%, P=0.0097)



while requiring a 53% lower minute volume ($P < 0.0001$) to achieve normocapnia. Furthermore, in pigs ventilated with FCV® the fraction of non-aerated lung tissue including atelectatic areas was reduced by 27% ($P=0.032$), with use of lower PEEP and comparable driving pressure, indicating an improved lung recruitment.

This study demonstrates the applicability of compliance-guided individualization of FCV® settings, allowing the optimization of ventilation based on the precise measurement of dynamic lung mechanics.

P. Spraidler, J. Martini, J. Abram, G. Putzer, B. Glodny, T. Hell, T. Barnes, D. Enk. Individualized flow-controlled ventilation compared to best clinical practice pressure controlled ventilation: a prospective randomized porcine study. Crit Care 2020 Nov 25;24(1):662. doi: 10.1186/s13054-020-03325-3.

Upper Airway Surgery

Evone – Clinical Studies – Upper Airway Surgery

This is the first retrospective study critically assessing the perioperative use of Evone and Tritube during upper airway surgery from a surgeon's perspective. Prof. Vander Poorten and colleagues describe 15 consecutive difficult airway cases where FCV® ventilation has been replacing traditional high frequency jet ventilation (HFJV) or ventilation through a conventional endotracheal tube. Procedures included treatment of tracheal or (sub)glottic stenosis and microsurgery of laryngeal (pre)malignancies. Apart from supporting safety and feasibility of Evone and Tritube®, the authors observed clear clinical benefits including a 'superior visualization and exposure of the surgical site' and a minimally traumatic airway access, while avoiding drawbacks frequently occurring during HFJV such as air-trapping, hypercapnia, desaturation and emphysema. Furthermore, they emphasize that application of FCV® through Tritube likely reduces the duration of surgery by allowing stable ventilation with low oxygen concentrations and by offering the surgeon a calm working space. As a result, Evone ventilation is nowadays their new standard of care in most cases of endoscopic airway surgery.

J. Meulemans, A. Jans, K. Vermeulen, J. Vandommele, P. Delaere, V. Vander Porten. Evone® Flow-Controlled Ventilation During Upper Airway Surgery: A Clinical Feasibility Study and Safety Assessment. Front. Surg. 2020; 7:6. doi: 10.3389/fsurg.2020.00006



The workgroup of Prof. Schumann demonstrated in a randomized controlled trial involving patients undergoing laryngeal surgery that Tritube improves surgical conditions for surgeons with a lower level of expertise by reducing concealment of laryngeal structures (-68%; $P < 0.001$) compared to an MLT-6. Further, they showed that FCV[®] improves lung aeration and respiratory system compliance compared with VCV (63 ± 14 vs. 46 ± 8 mL/cmH₂O; $P < 0.001$), while using a lower inspiratory plateau pressure (14 ± 2 vs. 17 ± 2 cmH₂O; $P < 0.001$).

J. Schmidt, F. Günther, J. Weber, V. Kehm, J. Pfeiffer, C. Becker, C. Wenzel, S. Borgmann, S. Wirth, S. Schumann. Glottic visibility for laryngeal surgery: Tritube[®] vs. microlaryngeal tube - a randomized controlled trial. Eur J Anaesthesiol. 2019 Dec;36(12):963-971



The first clinical study on FCV[®] using Evone in combination with the narrow-bore Tritube, conducted at two German academic medical centers, showed adequate ventilation during ear-nose-throat surgery, with stable respiratory and hemodynamic parameters throughout the procedure. Online videos illustrate good visibility of the laryngeal structures during and after placement of Tritube and the linear intratracheal pressures displayed on the screen by Evone during ventilation in FCV[®] mode. With Tritube's cuff deflated, patients could comfortably breathe spontaneously after emergence from anesthesia. In one patient Tritube (with deflated cuff) was left in place until arrival in the post anesthesia care unit. The authors state that, 'FCV[®] in combination with Tritube contributes to the armamentarium for airway management'.

J. Schmidt, F. Günther, J. Weber, S. Wirth, I. Brandes, T. Barnes, A. Zarbock, S. Schumann, D. Enk. Flow-controlled ventilation during ear, nose and throat surgery. A prospective observational study. Eur J Anaesthesiol. 2019 May;36(5):327-334



Drs. Kristensen and Abildstrøm showed in a randomized controlled trial in patients with predicted difficult laryngoscopy undergoing head/neck surgery that Tritube improves intubation and surgical conditions as compared to a standard MLT-6. Additionally, they demonstrated that, with a deflated cuff, Tritube is equally well tolerated as compared to a standard tube exchanger when left in situ postoperatively.

M.S. Kristensen, H.H. Abildstrøm. Endotracheal video-laryngoscope guided intubation with a 2.4 mm cuff'ed tube and active expiration by a dedicated ventilator versus a standard tube/ventilator. A randomized single blinded study in patients with a predicted difficult airway. - A paradigm shift in airway management? Abstract #3755 presented at Euroanaesthesia 2019 - Manuscript in preparation



Evone – Clinical Cases – Upper Airway Surgery

In this letter the authors describe the use of Evone in combination with Tritube to allow safe surgical tracheostomy with minimized aerosol generation while providing continuous ventilation. In the face of the Covid-19 pandemic, approaches to reduce the risk of virus spreading are urgently needed. While conventional tracheostomy is a highly aerosol generating procedure, introduction of Tritube and FCV® ventilation using Evone uniquely allows the placement of a transtracheal cannula in a sealed airway. Thereby, virus spread by air droplets is contained, and adequate ventilation of potentially severely hypoxic patients without apneic periods is ensured. The small outer diameter of Tritube additionally provides a good working space for the surgeon.

N.P. Magasich-Airola, M.R. Martins, G.R. Desuter, M.J. Van Boven. Novel technique for safe tracheostomy during COVID-19 pandemic using Evone® flow-controlled ventilation system. Int J Clin Pract. 2020 Nov 27;e13863. doi: 10.1111/ijcp.13863. Online ahead of print.



Dr. Yilbas and colleagues report the successful use of Evone and Tritube in a patient undergoing debulking surgery of a laryngeal mass, which obstructed nearly 80% of the tracheal lumen. While the small outer diameter of Tritube was valuable during intubation, Evone provided adequate ventilation of the patient in FCV® mode, with ventilatory parameters including airway pressures within normal clinical range.

A.A. Yilbas, A. Melek, O. Canbay, M. Kanbak. Using Tritube in a patient with laryngeal mass: Case report. Abstract presented at WAMM 2019



Dr. Imran Ahmad is the first to describe a challenging airway case, in which Tritube and Evone were found of significant value. The patient, scheduled for panendoscopy, had an anticipated difficult airway combined with airway pathology and COPD. Dr. Ahmad therefore opted for awake tracheal intubation with Tritube. After awake placement of the flexible bronchoscope, Tritube was guided using a silk suture tied over the bronchoscope. The patient was anesthetized and adequately ventilated with Evone for 45 minutes. Tritube allowed adequate surgical access with the advantage of a definitive airway, whilst continuous ventilation was delivered.

K. Jeyarajah and I. Ahmad. Awake tracheal placement of the Tritube under flexible bronchoscopic guidance. Anaesthesia Cases / 2018-0097 / ISSN 2396-8397 epub Jul 2018



Piosik and colleagues report the successful use of Evone and Tritube for surgery of a severe glottic stenosis. The patient, with a history of laryngeal papillomatosis, suffered from a fixated and thickened laryngeal inlet after several treatment procedures and had a previously abandoned jet ventilation. She presented with stridor and poor voice and was scheduled for surgical reduction of the stenosis and Mitomycin C treatment for symptomatic improvement. Ultrathin Tritube was intubated easily and provided excellent surgical working conditions, while Evone facilitated normoventilation with low airway pressures throughout the procedure. The authors state that this case demonstrates 'promising perspectives of treatment options for laryngeal surgery'.



Z.M. Piosik, T. Todsén, J.S. Balle, H. Abildstrøm, M.S. Kristensen. Ultra-narrow 2.4 mm id Tritube® together with Evone® ventilation allows surgical access and controlled ventilation even in case of severe stenosis. Trends in Anaesthesia and Critical Care 2018 (23); 20

Evone – Review – Upper Airway Surgery

In this short review on techniques for tracheobronchial surgery the authors highlight Evone and Tritube as future perspective to provide controlled small lumen ventilation with active expiration. As opposed to high frequency jet ventilation, FCV® reduces the risk of barotrauma and pneumothorax by preventing intrapulmonary pressure buildup.



A. Schleicher, H. Groeben. Anesthetic considerations for tracheobronchial surgery. J Thorac Dis. 2020 Oct;12(10):6138-6142. doi: 10.21037/jtd.2020.02.52.

FCV® and Lower Energy

Evone – Theoretical Evidence – FCV® and Lower Energy

Prof. Barnes, together with Van Asseldonk and Enk, provides clear theoretical evidence for lower energy dissipation in the lungs by FCV® as compared to VCV or PCV. They present a simple analysis and numerical calculations indicating that energy dissipation may be substantially reduced by controlling the ventilation flow to be constant and continuous during both inspiration and expiration and by ventilating at an I:E ratio very close to 1:1 – that is by using FCV®.



T. Barnes, D. van Asseldonk and D. Enk. Minimisation of dissipated energy in the airways during mechanical ventilation by using constant inspiratory and expiratory flows - flow controlled ventilation. Medical Hypotheses 121 (2018); 167-176

Evone – Clinical Proof of Concept – FCV® and Lower Energy

Profs Barnes and Enk are the first to actually determine pressure-volume (PV) loops and to show minimized energy dissipation in a patient ventilated with FCV® by Evone. During FCV® ventilation, both inspiratory and expiratory flows were kept nearly constant around 12 L/min and the I:E ratio was 1:1 resulting in a minute volume of 6.2 L/min. PV loops were recorded using pressure measured directly within the patient's trachea and the energy dissipated in the patient was calculated from the hysteresis area of the PV loops. The energy dissipation was 0.17 J/L, which is even lower than values quoted in literature for spontaneous breathing (0.2-0.7 J/L). They state that FCV® may have implications for lung-protective ventilation.

T. Barnes and D. Enk. Ventilation for low dissipated energy achieved using flow control during both inspiration and expiration. Trends in Anaesthesia and Critical Care 2019 (24); 5-12



Lung preservation

Evone – Ex-vivo Study – Lung preservation

This randomized controlled study compared FCV® to conventional VCV for ventilation of porcine lungs during ex vivo lung perfusion (EVLP). Fourteen porcine lungs were mounted on EVLP after a warm ischemic interval and ventilated for six hours with VCV or FCV®, respectively. FCV® led to improved oxygenation and alveolar recruitment, with a higher proportion of well-aerated lung tissue and less atelectatic areas. Thus, FCV® is a potential strategy to prolong EVLP over time, with less risk of volutrauma and atelectrauma and thus less risk of ventilator induced lung injury (VILI).

Ordies S, Orlitova M, Heigl T, Sacreas A, Van Herck A, Kaes J, Saez B, Vanstapel A, Ceulemans L, Vanau-denaerde BM, Vos R, Verschakelen J, Verleden GM, Verleden SE, Van Raemdonck DE, Neyrinck AP. Flow-controlled ventilation during EVLP improves oxygenation and preserves alveolar recruitment. Intensive Care Med Exp. 2020 Nov 25;8(1):70. doi: 10.1186/s40635-020-00360-w.



Airway Management

Ventrain – Review/Opinion – Airway Management

In this article Dr. Morrison and colleagues set out the structure and function of the Ventrain® device, and speculate on whether it may have a future role in difficult airway algorithms. The authors provide a detailed explanation on the working mechanism of Ventrain and how it has been applied safely in the clinic, and elucidate the theoretical advantages expiratory ventilation assistance has over transtracheal jet ventilation. They advocate 'for regular simulation training and the detailed reporting of clinical experience with this encouraging new tool'.

S. Morrison, S. Aerts, V. Saldien. The Ventrain Device: A Future Role in Difficult Airway Algorithms? A A Pract. 2019;13:362-365



This review by Dr. Doyle sets out the clinical and technical perspectives on Ventrain. A short explanation of the physical principles underlying the functional concept of Ventrain is followed by a summary of bench and animal studies that demonstrate its novelty and efficient performance. Dr. Doyle then highlights clinical cases and studies demonstrating clear advantages of Ventrain compared to conventional ventilation techniques through small lumen catheters. He describes the use of Ventrain during upper airway surgery, in emergency CICO ('Cannot Intubate, Cannot Oxygenate') situations, for critical pediatric airways and its potential value during extubation. In sum, all published data support an emerging and promising role of Ventrain in clinical airway management.

D.J. Doyle. Ventilation via Narrow-Bore Catheters: Clinical and Technical Perspectives on the Ventrain Ventilation System. The Open Anaesthesia Journal 2018, Volume 12



Upper Airway Surgery

Ventrain – Clinical Cases – Upper Airway Surgery

Dr. Kristensen and colleagues were the first to describe Tritube's clinical use in seven adult ear-nose-throat surgical patients with airway narrowing or whose surgical access was facilitated by this small-bore endotracheal tube. In combination with Ventrain, adequate ventilation was achieved in all patients and intratracheal pressure was kept between 5 and 20 cm H₂O.



They concluded that: *"The 2.4 mm internal diameter Tritube seems to facilitate tracheal intubation and to provide unprecedented view of the intubated airway during oral, pharyngeal, laryngeal or tracheal procedures in adults."*

Additionally, they state that: *"This technique has the potential to replace temporary tracheostomy, jet-ventilation or extra-corporal membrane oxygenation in selected patients."*

M.S. Kristensen, M.W.P. de Wolf and L.S. Rasmussen. Ventilation via the 2.4 mm internal diameter Tritube® with cuff - new possibilities in airway management. Acta Anaesthesiol. Scand. 2017 Jul; 61(6):580-589

Dr. Rodríguez and colleagues present a series of nine cases of laryngeal microsurgery to treat benign polyps. All patients were ventilated satisfactorily using Ventrain and Tritube, confirmed by blood gas analyses. Surgical satisfaction was excellent, mainly due to the greater exposure and better maneuverability provided by Tritube.

L. Rodríguez, J.J. Sanchez Palomo, M.A. Lopez Salcedo, N.E. Pizarro, S. Fossati Puertas, L. Santé Serna. Cutting-edge ventilation method in laryngeal microsurgery. Abstract #3280 presented at Euroanaesthesia 2019



Dr. Lee and colleagues report the elective use of Ventrain and Cricath® to safely facilitate the resection of significant pharyngeal fibrotic tissue due to radiotherapy. Previously, insertion attempts of a laser jet catheter and supraglottic devices had failed and surgery was abandoned. The patient returned for an elective insertion of Cricath, followed by manually controlled ventilation with Ventrain throughout the procedure. The authors appreciate that this 'elegant, minimally invasive technique' offers certain advantages over jet ventilation, as 'the risks of gas trapping and barotrauma are reduced.'

S. Lee, D. Yeow, E. Molena, L. Pitkin, B. Patel. The Ventrain - An elegant way to facilitate elective surgery in upper airway obstruction. Trends in Anaesthesia and Critical Care 2020 (30) e13



Dr. Zuercher and colleagues report an innovative combination of Ventrain and S-Guide for airway management of a planned endoscopic dilation of a severe subglottic stenosis in an adult patient. They state that this new alternative may offer advantages over existing airway management techniques in similar cases.

M. Zuercher, M. Pythoud-brügger, K. Sandu and P. Schoettker. Combined use of Ventrain and S-Guide for Airway Management of Severe Subglottic Stenosis. Turk J Anaesthesiol Reanim 2019 Jun;47(3):238-241



Dr. Ahmad and colleagues present a case of a patient with severe upper airway obstruction undergoing surgical intervention, avoiding the need for tracheostomy. The patient sternly refused an awake elective tracheostomy or wide-bore cricothyroid cannula, so a 2-stage airway management technique was performed: an awake fiberoptic intubation with a small diameter endotracheal tube, followed by needle cricothyroidotomy with Cricath after anesthetic induction. Ventrain was used to adequately ventilate the patient for 75 minutes (SpO_2 100%, $PaCO_2$ 46 mmHg). Post-operatively Cricath was left in situ for 24 hours. No complications occurred. The patient was discharged home 2 days later. View this elegant two-stage airway management technique: <http://links.lww.com/AACR/A133>

D.N. Onwochei, K. El-Boghdadly and I. Ahmad. Two-Stage Technique Used to Manage Severe Upper Airway Obstruction and Avoid Surgical Tracheostomy: A Case Report. A A Pract 2018 Mar 1;10(5):118-120



Dr. Fearnley and colleagues reported the elective use of Ventrain in a patient with post radiation fibrosis that had previously prevented passive expiration during attempted high frequency jet ventilation. Ventrain was found simple and easy to use and provided perfectly adequate transtracheal ventilation for > 1 hour, allowing laser resection of the stenosis. They have used our transtracheal catheter Cricath, which was found kink resistant. Ventrain has now become their first choice device when emergency needle cricothyrotomy is performed.

R.A. Fearnley, S. Badiger, R. Oakley and I. Ahmad. Elective use of the Ventrain for upper airway obstruction during high frequency jet ventilation. J Clin Case Rep 2016 (6):2



Dr. Borg and colleagues reported the successful and uneventful elective use of Ventrain in combination with a transtracheal catheter (2 mm ID) with 20 min of adequate ventilation and oxygenation in a patient with partial obstruction of the laryngeal inlet.

P.A. Borg, A.E.W. Hamaekers, M. Lacko, J. Jansen and D. Enk. Ventrain for ventilation of the lungs. Br J Anaesth. 2012 Nov;109(5):833-4



Dr. Monnier and colleagues reported a new surgical technique in a patient with an early stage squamous cell carcinoma of the glottis with involvement of both vocal cords and impossible transoral access to the larynx, due to a medical history of head and neck radiation. While the larynx was accessed transthyrohyoidly, Ventrain was used for transtracheal ventilation during the first part of the surgery, followed by high frequency jet ventilation



when the airway was patent. This setup proved to be extremely safe for securing the airway and allowed endoscopic resection of the tumor.

Y. Monnier, P. Schoettker, B. Morisod, C. Ikonomidis and C. Simon. Transthyrohyoid access to the larynx for endoscopic resection of early-stage glottic cancer. Head Neck 2016 Aug;38(8):1286-9

Dr. Kalkoff described the first successful use of Ventrain in combination with an intubating catheter in an elective setting, in a patient undergoing microlaryngoscopy with a partly obstructed airway.

M. Kalkoff. Ventilation through a small-bore intubating catheter using Ventrain in an elective procedure. Letter Br J Anaesth 2012



In Ethiopia, Dr. Braga and colleagues electively used Ventrain in combination with a transtracheal catheter as a safe 'bridge to intubation' in a young patient presented for free flap surgery to cover a complex type IV NOMA defect.

B.A.J. Braga, G. Rodeny, G. Hotvedt, A.F.H. Taylor and D.R. Ball. Ventrain ejector ventilation as a bridge to tracheal intubation for complex NOMA pathology – Poster presented at the Difficult Airway Society 2014 and World Airway Management Meeting 2015



Ventrain – In-Vivo Studies – Upper Airway Surgery

The workgroup of Prof. Enk demonstrated with an early prototype of Tritube that small-bore ventilation with Ventrain is optimized in a cuffed airway. A pressure measurement line in the prototype Tritube enabled a reliable airway pressure monitoring using a cuff manometer. During the 30 minutes of ventilation with Ventrain (PaO₂ 61 [52-69] kPa; PaCO₂ 4.9 [4.2-6.2] kPa) hemodynamics were stable. This elegant study was executed in healthy pigs.

M. W. P. de Wolf, T. van der Beek, A. E. Hamaekers, M. Theunissen and D. Enk. A prototype small-bore ventilation catheter with a cuff: cuff inflation optimizes ventilation with the Ventrain. Acta Anaesth Scand 2018 Mar 62(3):328-335



Dr. Paxian and colleagues demonstrated that Ventrain can ensure sufficient oxygenation and ventilation through a small-bore transtracheal catheter in live pigs when the airway is open, partly obstructed, or completely closed. Additionally, the minute ventilation and avoidance of high airway pressures were superior in comparison with traditional hand-triggered jet ventilation, particularly in the event of complete upper airway obstruction.

M. Paxian, N.P. Preussler, T. Reinz, A. Schlueter and R. Gottschall. Transtracheal ventilation with a novel ejector-based device (Ventrain) in open, partly obstructed, or totally closed upper airways in pigs. Br J Anaesth 2015 Aug;115(2):308-16. (Also referred in section "Emergency")



Ventilation during lung separation procedures

Ventrain – Clinical Case – Ventilation during lung separation procedures

In a patient undergoing thoracoscopic esophagectomy and concomitant wedge resection, an iatrogenic lesion in the left main bronchus was observed following deflation of the right lung. Repair of the lesion required deflation of the bronchial cuff. This challenging situation was resolved by Dr. Evers. She used Ventrain to oxygenate the patient through an Arndt Endobronchial Blocker through the lumen beyond the bronchial defect. With the use of this technique, oxygenation was maintained at an acceptable level during repair.

V.M. Evers, R.V. Immink, W.J.P. van Boven, M.I. van Berge Henegouwen, M.W. Hollmann and D.P. Veelo. Intraoperative Use of the Ventrain for Single Lung Ventilation After Iatrogenic Trauma to the Left Main Bronchus During Thoracoscopy: A Case Report. AA Case Rep 2017 Aug 15; 9(4):116-118 Commented by H.P. Grocott. Using the Ventrain With a Small-Bore Catheter: Ventilation or Just Oxygenation? Anesth Analg. 2018 Apr;126(4):1426-1427



Emergency

Ventrain – Clinical Cases – Emergency

Dr. Morisson reported a case of a 71-year-old man with advanced vocal cord carcinoma, presenting with severe airway obstruction. Therapeutic anticoagulation with enoxaparin complicated management. Failure of an oral awake bronchoscopic intubation was rescued by passing a guidewire through the working channel and threading an Arndt exchange catheter into the trachea under videoscopic vision. Ventilation with Ventrain lasting



40 minutes (15 L/min, inspiration/expiration 1:1, 15 breaths/min), during IV anesthesia with muscle paralysis, resulted in excellent blood gas values until placement of the tracheal cannula.

The authors state that: "This case report highlights the effectiveness of a novel ventilation technique that should be considered as back-up when bronchoscopic intubation fails."

S. Morrison, S. Aerts, D. van Rompaey, O. Vanderveken. Awake Intubation for Critical Airway Obstruction Rescued With the Ventrain Device and an Arndt Exchange Catheter: A Case Report A A Pract. 2019 Jul 1;13(1):23-26

Dr. Gerling and colleagues saved a patient's life using Cricath and Ventrain. Deteriorating respiratory distress, increasing hypoxia, and decreasing level of consciousness of a transported patient forced a ground ambulance to stop at the emergency department of the Meander Medical Center Amersfoort. Upon arrival the patient had a SpO₂ of 81%, which dropped to 37% within 5 minutes. Active ventilation was not possible. Quick intraoral inspection and fiberoptic evaluation revealed massive edema, secretions and no airway. Cricath was placed and ventilation with Ventrain was started. SpO₂ rapidly raised within 90 seconds to 99% and hemodynamics improved. Ventrain ventilation lasted for nearly 60 minutes before semi-elective surgical tracheotomy was safely performed.

D.A. Heuveling, H.F. Mahieu, H.G. Jongsma-van Netten and V. Gerling. Transtracheal Use of the CriCath Cannula in Combination With the Ventrain Device for Prevention of Hypoxic Arrest due to Severe Upper Airway Obstruction: A Case Report. A A Pract. 2018 Dec 5;11(12):344-347



Dr. Escribá presents the rescue of a difficult airway in a pediatric patient with subglottic stenosis with Ventrain. When the patient desaturated, the device enabled immediate ventilation during airway assessment through a rigid bronchoscope and restoration of normal oxygen saturation. Then, post intubation, ventilation with the Ventrain was valuable again, when conventional mechanical PICU ventilation was very difficult due to elevated pressures. This case clearly indicates that the new ventilation device Ventrain offers advantages over devices available until now.

F.J. Escribá Alepuz, J. Alonso García, J.V. Cuchillo Sastriques, E. Alcalá and P. Argente Navarro. Emergency Ventilation of Infant Subglottic Stenosis Through Small Gauge Lumen Using the Ventrain®. A A Prac 2018 Mar 15;10(6):136-138



Dr. Wahlen and colleagues described a case in which Ventrain in combination with a tube exchanger was used to ventilate a patient with life-threatening tracheal stenosis. After a failed initial intubation with an endotracheal tube (ID 5.0 mm) the tube exchanger was inserted allowing adequate ventilation with Ventrain until surgical tracheostomy was performed. Hemodynamic stability indicated that the active expiration induced by Ventrain prevented intrapulmonary pressure build-up by air trapping and subsequent barotrauma, which may be observed during traditional jet ventilation in a similar situation.

B.M. Wahlen, H. Al-Thani and A. El-Menyar. Ventrain: from theory to practice. Bridging until re-tracheostomy BJM Case Rep 2017 Aug 16; 2017



Dr. Willemsen and colleagues reported cases of ventilation through a small lumen intubating catheter (35 cm long; 1.6 mm ID) and an exchange catheter (45 cm long, 1.6 mm ID) using Ventrain to manage critical paediatric airways in babies of 2.1 kg and 4.3 kg, respectively.

M.G. Willemsen, R. Noppens, A.L. Mulder and D. Enk. Ventilation with the Ventrain through a small lumen catheter in the failed paediatric airway: two case reports. Br J Anaest 2014 May;112(5):946-7



Dr. J. López-Torres and colleagues present four case reports of Ventrain use: laryngeal microsurgery, foreign body in the airway emergency, subglottic stenosis and assistance to guide extubation in Pierre-Robin syndrome. They indicate that laryngospasm, edema or anatomical distortion, combined with over-vigorous jet insufflation can result in air trapping with subsequent barotrauma and hemodynamic instability. They state that Ventrain is the only ventilation device that provides full ventilation for these situations.

J. López-Torres, F.J. Escribá, J. Encarnación, J. Alonso, J.V. Cuchillo and P. Argente. Ventrain device for difficult or obstructed airways: 4 case report. Trends in Anaesthesia and Critical Care 2017 12:31



Dr. Krapf demonstrated feasibility of using Ventrain in combination with needle cricothyrotomy in a pre-hospital CICV setting under reanimation conditions.

M. Krapf, D. Gäumann, J. Jacquier and S. Graf. Cannot intubate, cannot ventilate: Beatmung über einen 2-mm-Katheter in der Präklinik. Notfallpraxis 2016 8(39); 792-794 (article in German)



Dr. Nellgård underlined the importance of performing an early cricothyrotomy in a situation of CICV. After several failed attempts to intubate a patient with instable angina pectoris scheduled for coronary artery bypass surgery, bag and mask ventilation became unsuccessful.



A transtracheal catheter (2 mm ID) was placed and ventilation with Ventrain increased saturation from <50% to ~80%. Then, cricothyrotomy was successfully performed using the Melker Cricothyroidotomy 5. Surgery was postponed and percutaneous coronary intervention was performed instead.

P. Nellgård. Ventrain in a case of can't intubate can't ventilate situation. Orally presented at the European Society of Anaesthesiology 2013

Dr. Kalsi and colleagues reported for the first time the use of Ventrain in combination with a transtracheal catheter (2 mm ID) in an emergency scenario. They demonstrated adequate ventilation with saturation levels >98%.

A. Kalsi, K. Konieczny and M. Turner. Transtracheal jet ventilation using the Ventrain Device in a patient with severe upper airway obstruction. Poster presented at the Difficult Airway Society 2012



Ventrain – In-Vivo Studies – Emergency

Prof. Enk's workgroup demonstrated that Ventrain provided rapid reoxygenation and effective ventilation through a 100 cm long airway exchange catheter (ID 3 mm) in severe hypoxic pigs with an obstructed airway. This study clearly indicates potential clinical applicability and usefulness of Ventrain, not only in combination with short, transtracheal cannulas but also with long small lumen tubes/catheters when (re)intubation is difficult or has failed.

M.W.P. de Wolf, R. Gottschall, M.P. Preussler, M. Paxian and D. Enk. Emergency ventilation with the Ventrain through an airway exchange catheter in a porcine model of complete upper airway obstruction. Can J Anaesth. 2017 Jan;64(1):37-44



Dr. Paxian and colleagues demonstrated that Ventrain can ensure sufficient oxygenation and ventilation through a small-bore transtracheal catheter in live pigs when the airway is open, partly obstructed, or completely closed. Additionally, the minute ventilation and avoidance of high airway pressures were superior in comparison with traditional hand-triggered jet ventilation, particularly in the event of complete upper airway obstruction.

M. Paxian, N.P. Preussler, T. Reinz, A. Schlueter and R. Gottschall. Transtracheal ventilation with a novel ejector-based device (Ventrain) in open, partly obstructed, or totally closed upper airways in pigs. Br J Anaesth 2015 Aug;115(2):308-16 (Also referred in section "Upper airway surgery")



The workgroup of Prof. Enk showed quickly restored oxygenation after ventilation with Expiratory Ventilation Assistance (EVA®) in cases of a completely or partially obstructed upper airway in severe hypoxic pigs. Reoxygenation and ventilation were less efficient when the upper airway was completely unobstructed.

A.E.W. Hamaekers, T. van der Beek, M. Theunissen and D. Enk. Rescue ventilation through a small-bore transtracheal cannula in severe hypoxic pigs using expiratory ventilation assistance. Anesth Analg. 2015 Apr;120(4):890-4



In post-apnoeic sheep, Dr. Berry and colleagues demonstrated that Ventrain provided stable oxygenation and effective ventilation at low airway pressures during emergency percutaneous transtracheal ventilation in critically obstructed airways. Manujet provided effective temporizing oxygenation in this situation with hypoventilation necessary to minimize barotrauma risk.

M. Berry, Y. Tzeng and C. Marsland. Percutaneous transtracheal ventilation in an obstructed airway model in post apnoeic sheep. Br J Anaesth. 2014 Dec;113(6):1039-45



Dr. Ziebart and colleagues confirmed in a pig model with upper airway obstruction adequate ventilation using Ventrain in combination with a transtracheal catheter. Furthermore, they underline the importance of training and education of users and adherence to the instructions for use in order to use Ventrain safely.

A. Ziebart, A. Garcia-Bardon, J. Kamuf, R. Thomas, T. Liu, A. Schad, B. Duenges, M. David and EK. Hartmann. Pulmonary effects of expiratory-assisted small-lumen ventilation during upper airway obstruction in pigs. Anaesthesia. 2015 Oct;70(10):1171-9



In a small pilot study the workgroup of Prof. Rosenblatt demonstrated that Ventrain rapidly corrected hypoxemia in a large ovine model.

S. Manoach, L. Paladino and W. Rosenblatt. Resuscitation from prolonged apnea and upper airway obstruction in a large ovine model: a pilot trial of transtracheal ventilation using 15 lpm with and without an entrainment assisted trans-catheter exhalation device. Poster presented at the Society for Airway Management 2011



Ventrain – Ex-vivo Study – Emergency

Consistency and safety in airway emergencies - A comparative study of 6 cannula insufflation devices on test lung models of adult, pediatric and infant models found Ventrain to be the sole device that insufflated oxygen with acceptable pressures and volumes with variable degrees of airway obstruction (complete, partial, open). Other devices were found to be either unsuccessful, or generating variable and excessive values.

C.M. Mann, P.A. Baker, D.M. Sainsbury, R. Taylor. A comparison of cannula insufflation device performance for emergency front of neck airway. Paediatr Anaesth. 2021 Jan 11. doi: 10.1111/pan.14128. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33432628



Technology Development

Concepts – Preclinical and bench studies – Technology Development

In a bench study the workgroup of Prof. Enk tested the efficacy of a prototype of Ventrain. Results of this study suggested that Ventrain is capable of achieving a normal minute volume for an average adult through a 2 mm ID transtracheal catheter.

A.E.W. Hamaekers, P.A. Borg and D. Enk. Ventrain: an ejector ventilator for emergency use. Br J Anaesth. 2012 Jun;108(6):1017-21



Prof. Heerdt and co-workers showed in a porcine model that EVA ventilation with a Negative End Expiratory Pressure (NEEP; -8 mbar) improved hemodynamics during normovolemia and during hypovolemia after hemorrhage as compared with VCV with PEEP. Before hemorrhage EVA-NEEP increased stroke volume (+27%; $p=0.003$) and cardiac output (+21%; $p=0.023$), and reduced central venous pressure (-30%; $p=0.013$) compared with Volume Controlled Ventilation with PEEP (4 mbar). After hemorrhage during hypovolemia the effects were more pronounced leading to a 41% increased cardiac output, higher mean arterial pressure and increased venous return for EVA-NEEP ventilation as compared with VCV-ZEEP (0 mbar). For this study a prototypical small automated ventilator based upon the EVA principle was used to generate a controlled period of negative EEP.

D.A. Berlin, S. Monoach, C. Oromendia and P. Heerdt. Automated expiratory ventilation assistance through a small endotracheal tube can improve venous return and cardiac output. Intensive Care Med Exp 2019, 7(1), 22 Commented by L. Böttinger and J.W.A. van der Hoorn. Negative pressure ventilation – a special application of expiratory ventilation assistance. Intensive Care Med Exp 2019, 7(1), 22. Response to letter by Drs Bottinger and van der Hoorn. D.A. Berlin, S. Monoach, P.M. Heerdt. Intensive Care Med Exp 2019 Jun6;7(1):31

The importance of flow and pressure release in jet ventilation devices was demonstrated by Prof. Enk and his co-workers in a bench study where three previously described self-assembled jet devices and the Oxygen Flow Modulator were tested. In case of complete upper airway obstruction the OFM provides sufficient flow and pressure release, whereas the self-assembled jet devices tested are inherently dangerous constructions.

A.E.W. Hamaekers, P.A. Borg, T. Götz and D. Enk. The importance of flow and pressure release in emergency jet ventilation devices. Paediatr Anaesth. 2009 May;19(5):452-7

To reduce the risk of air trapping and to increase oxygenation efficacy an emergency transtracheal ventilation device needs to allow both inspiration and expiration. In absence of such a device Prof. Enk and his co-workers determined the capability of two self-assembled, three-way stopcock based jet devices and the Oxygen Flow Modulator to function as a bidirectional airway in conjunction with a small lumen catheter.

A.E.W. Hamaekers, P.A. Borg and D. Enk. A bench study of ventilation via two self-assembled jet devices and the Oxygen Flow Modulator in simulated upper airway obstruction. Anaesthesia. 2009 Dec;64(12):1353-8



The ineffectiveness and danger of using transtracheal jet ventilation in cases of complete upper airway obstruction motivated Prof. Enk to search for a better solution. Prof. Enk's workgroup transformed a small, industrial ejector into a simple, manual ventilator providing expiratory ventilation assistance (EVA®). They showed that EVA® shortened the expiration time and that a minute volume up to 6.6 L/min could be achieved through a 2 mm ID transtracheal catheter in a simulated obstructed airway.

A.E.W. Hamaekers, T. Götz, P.A. Borg and D. Enk. Achieving an adequate minute volume through a 2 mm transtracheal catheter in simulated upper airway obstruction using a modified industrial ejector. Br J Anaesth. 2010 Mar;104(3):382-6



A functional model of Ventrain, based on EVA® technology was built by Prof. Enk: the DE5. In laboratory tests the workgroup of Prof. Enk showed that the DE 5 is an optimized ventilation ejector suitable for applying expiratory ventilation assistance.

A.E.W. Hamaekers, P.A. Borg, T. Götz and D. Enk. Ventilation through a small-bore catheter: optimizing expiratory ventilation assistance. Br J Anaesth. 2011 Mar;106(3):403-9



The workgroup of Prof. Enk showed in a bench study that Ventrain is capable of achieving adequate minute volume ventilation through a 100 cm long, 3 mm ID Airway Exchange Catheter by applying EVA® in a simulated completely obstructed airway.

E.M. Dias, A.E.W. Hamaekers, P.A.J. Borg and D. Enk. Adequate minute volume ventilation through a 100 cm long, 3 mm inner diameter airway exchange catheter by expiratory ventilation assistance (EVA®). Poster presented at the European society of Anaesthesiology 2012



In this bench study Prof. Enk demonstrated that Ventrain in combination with a prototype cuffed jet ventilator catheter should allow adequate minute volume ventilation in adult patients.

D. Enk and S. Enk. Small Lumen Ventilation through a Cuffed Jet Ventilation Catheter: Efficiency and Safety. Poster presented at the Society for Airway Management 2012



In a bench study Dr. Calderon and colleagues compared passive expiration with EVA® using Ventrain in a Totally Obstructed Airway model. They demonstrated that, in contrast to passive expiration, EVA® maintained an acceptable Minute Volume, avoiding auto-PEEP.

L.G.M.B Calderon, M.M. Moreira, G.L. Emídio, E.P. Corrêa, M.A. Carvalho-Filho and R.G.G. Terzi. Expiratory ventilation assistance (EVA®) through a 14G catheter (2mm) in a Totally Obstructed Airway (TOA). Poster presented at Society for Airway Management 2013



In a bench study Dr. Schmidt and colleagues show that not every oxygen delivery device will generate enough driving pressure to deliver a predictable flow through Ventrain and a 2 mm (ID) 75 mm long transtracheal catheter. They confirmed that while using the prescribed oxygen supply system with a pressure compensated flow regulator, flow and tidal volume were predictable enabling adequate ventilation through a small lumen.

A.R. Schmidt, K. Ruetzler, T. Haas, A. Schmitz and M. Weiss. Impact of oxygen sources on performance of the Ventrain® ventilation device in an in vitro set-up. Acta Anaesthesiol Scand. 2016 Feb;60(2):241-9. Rebuttal by de Wolf MW, Schutzer-Weissmann JM. Acta Anaesthesiol Scand. 2016 Nov;60(10):1477-1478.



In a bench study Dr. Wirth and colleagues showed that active expiration assistance (using Ventrain) provided better maintenance of minute ventilation without intrinsic PEEP compared to conventional mechanical ventilation (passive expiration), when using a small endotracheal tube or cricothyrotomy catheter.



S. Wirth, L. Seywert, J. Spaeth and S. Schumann. Compensating Artificial Airway Resistance via Active Expiration Assistance. Respir Care. 2016 Dec;61(12):1597-1604

Dr. Schmidt and colleagues showed that a Respiration Function Monitor is capable of monitoring ventilation with Ventrain, which could make its use even safer.

A.R. Schmidt, K. Ruetzler, T. Haas, A. Schmitz and M. Weiss. Monitoring der Tidalvolumina bei Verwendung des Ventrain® Notfallbeatmungsgerätes. Anaesthesist 65:514–520. Rebuttal by de Wolf, Gottschall and Enk. Anaesthesist 2017 · 66:207–208

Editorials, Correspondence

Dr. Noppens deliberated Ventrain's clinical significance:

"The idea and working principle behind the Ventrain are very promising and have the potential to change the way we look at ventilation through small-bore cannulae, not only in emergency situations."

"For the benefit of patients in critical situations, it will be necessary to train and educate as many anesthetists as possible in this novel ventilation technique, not only to avoid inappropriate use, but to allow its incorporation into routine airway management in the future."

This editorial refers to the study of Paxian and colleagues, which elegantly demonstrates that Ventrain ensures sufficient oxygenation and ventilation through a small-bore transtracheal catheter in cases of an open, partly obstructed, or completely closed airway.

R.R. Noppens. Ventilation through a 'straw': the final answer in a totally closed upper airway? Br J Anaesth. 2015 Aug; 115 (2): 168-170

Drs. Timmermann, Chrimes and Hagberg responded to the published 2015 Guidelines of the Difficult Airway Society (DAS), which endorse scalpel cricothyroidotomy as the sole method for emergency front-of-neck access:

"This sole recommendation of a scalpel technique may increase the psychological barriers to successful achievement of front-of-neck access in an appropriate time frame when a CICO situation occurs. Training in both (scalpel-based and cannula-based) techniques remains warranted, and the option to use either technique should continue to be advocated."

In addition to airway management techniques, they advised on ventilation techniques to be used after obtaining front-of-neck access. They recommend a.o. Ventrain:

"These provide, in contrast to a jet ventilator, an affordable, simple mechanism for oxygen insufflation via a cannula that can be connected to a standard oxygen outlet and allows for passive or even active expiration via the cannula between breaths. Techniques have been developed for use of these devices, intended to minimize the risk of complications from volutrauma and barotrauma, even when the upper airway is completely obstructed."

This editorial emphasizes the multiple options for saving a patient's life in an emergency CICO situation.

A. Timmermann, N. Chrimes and C.A. Hagberg. Need to consider human factors when determining first-line technique for emergency front-of-neck access. Br J Anaesth. 2016 Jul;117(1):5-7

Dr. Lang also responded to the DAS guidelines expressing his concerns that the DAS Plan D amount to 'wishful thinking' as it aims to avoid life-threatening consequences of barotrauma:

"It focuses on attaining and then maintaining proficiency using an invasive technique (i.e., surgical cricothyroidotomy) with which many anesthesiologists are not comfortable and do not have an opportunity to practice."

He underlines that Ventrain is based on concepts and skills familiar to most anesthesia practitioners and that it can be used in routine cases in order to gain clinical experience. As such the technique is trainable. Dr. Lang concludes:

"I also believe, most importantly, that awareness of, familiarity and proficiency with, and dissemination of the device will certainly be easier and quicker to achieve than a cultural shift that would be necessary to ensure maintaining competence with surgical cricothyroidotomy."

S.A. Lang. Emergency airway management: What are the roles for surgical cricothyroidotomy and the Ventrain® device? *Can J Anaesth.* 2016 Aug;63(8):997-8

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- C. Spies, M. Kastrup, T. Kerner, C. Melzer-Gartzke, H. Zielke and W.J. Kox. SOPs in Anästhesiologie und Schmerztherapie. Thieme (publisher); 2013; p.94.
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- W. Rosenblatt and W. Popescu. Master techniques in Upper and Lower Airway Management. Wolters Kluwer Health (publisher); 2015; Chapter 44 (ePub).

» Adressess

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FCV® is initially developed in its most basic form as EVA® (Expiratory Ventilation Assistance)

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