

Letters to the Editor

Longer term follow up for treatment of chronic otitis externa by KTP/532 laser

Dear Sirs,

The treatment of chronic otitis externa by KTP/532 laser was published in the Journal of Laryngology and Otology in December 1997¹. A surgical technique was described and some short term follow-up presented.

The technique has been found to be quick and efficient. However the longer term results have been less satisfactory. The results from primary laser procedures (with follow-up of six months or more) show a successful outcome in seven out of 15 cases. This is less successful than the nine out of 10 successful procedures published in the original paper. The results of revision surgery are also not as good as was first hoped, with three out of 13 procedures being successful.

Overall this laser meatoplasty technique has proven to be safe and efficient; however the results are probably similar to other techniques. This technique offers a safe, quick alternative to the traditional meatoplasty but probably with similar results.

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Reference

- 1 Kumar BN, Walsh RM, Courteney-Harris RG, Wilson PS. Treatment of chronic otitis externa by KTP/532 laser. *J Laryngol Otol* 1997;**111**:1126–9

The use of inhalers in patients with tracheostomy tubes

Dear Sirs,

We previously described how patients with a tracheostomy tube, who suffered from asthma or chronic bronchitis, could utilise metered dose inhalers with spacer devices via adaptors and pieces of tubing¹. It has since come to our

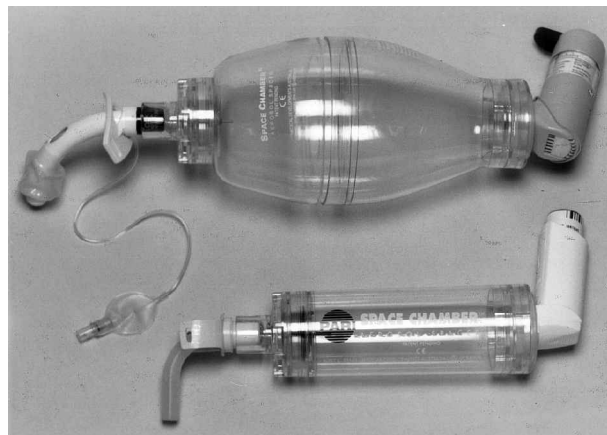


FIG. 1

Small and large space chambers^e with inhalers attached, and connected directly onto tracheostomy tubes.

attention that large and smaller spacer devices, known as Space Chambers^e, are now available with 22mm/15mm M/F tapers in the mouthpiece that can fit directly onto the 15mm connection of a tracheostomy tube as shown in Figure 1. The commonly used inhalers can be readily used with the Space Chamber^e.

The Space Chamber^e is manufactured by: Medical Developments Australia Pty Ltd. E-mail: mda@bigpond.com.

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Reference

- 1 Mirza S, Hopkinson L, Malik TH, Willatt DJ. The use of inhalers in patients with tracheal stomas or tracheostomy tubes. *J Laryngol Otol* 1999;**113**:762–4

Book Review

Diseases of the Larynx

Alfio Ferlito, (ed).

Edward Arnold, 2000

ISBN: 0340760168. Price £175.00 (HB)

This is an excellent textbook of laryngology and a must for any departmental library. The multi-author text covers all aspects of the subject and is most suited to trainees and newly appointed consultants seeking to expand their knowledge in the field. Experienced laryngologists will not be disappointed as this is a useful reference work and one of the features is the consistently high standard of references in each chapter.

With two thirds of the authors from North America there is a certain bias in the text but overall the editor has made the book very readable. The chapters on basic

sciences together with those on assessment and special investigations are particularly comprehensive. Neoplastic disease is covered in detail with twenty-seven chapters out of the books total of sixty-five, although I am not sure why there is a separate chapter on hypopharyngeal carcinoma. Paediatrics is well covered as is trauma, infections and other benign conditions. The chapter on gastro-oesophageal reflux would have benefited from more detail on the clinical effects. Throughout the book there are excellent line drawings although at this price level one might have hoped that some of the clinical photographs might have been in colour.

Overall Professor Ferlito is to be congratulated on editing such an up to date and comprehensive text that should be read by any aspiring laryngologist.

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