



INTRODUCTION

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Stress response under anaesthesia has been universally recognized phenomenon (*Zargar et al., 2002*). The haemodynamic responses are due to reflex sympatho-adrenal discharge provoked by epiglottal and laryngotracheal stimulation subsequent to laryngoscopy and tracheal intubation (TI) (*Ghai et al., 2001*), this results in hypertension, tachycardia, arrhythmia and a change in plasma catecholamine concentrations (*Barak et al., 2003*).

The cardiovascular response to TI can be problematic if the patient suffers from cardio-vascular, cerebro-vascular or abdominal-vascular disease in which hypertension may lead to haemorrhage (*Kille et al., 1995*).

Sympathetic stimulation from TI also increases the intracranial pressure (ICP); this can be harmful in patients with intracranial mass lesions or increased ICP from other pathology (*Beebe, 2001*).

The acute increase in intraocular pressure (IOP) may be dangerous for patients with impending perforation of eye, perforating eye injuries and glaucoma (*Ghai et al., 2001*). Control of IOP during ophthalmic surgery or diagnostic tonometry is clinically important, because uncontrolled IOP increases induced by airway manipulation may worsen ocular morbidity or produce misleading results (*Eltzschig et al., 2001*).

Many attempts have been made to attenuate the stress response to laryngoscopy and intubation (*Kumar et al., 2003*). Various drugs like: deep general anaesthesia, local anaesthetics, opioids, β -adrenergic blockers, (*Rathore et al., 2002*), calcium channel blockers (*Kumar et al., 2003*), central α -2 adrenoceptor agonists (*Boussofara et al., 2001*) and vasodilators have been used (*Rathore et al., 2002*).

Intubating devices like: the fiberoptic bronchoscope (FOB) (*Barak et al., 2003*), the intubating stylet (*Miller, 2000*), the lighted stylet (lightwand) (*Takahashi et al., 2002*), the laryngeal mask airway (LMA) (*Ghai et al., 2001*), the intubating laryngeal mask airway (ILMA) (*Kihara et al., 2003*) and the cuffed oropharyngeal airway (COPA) have been used (*Casati et al., 1999*).

Techniques like superior laryngeal nerve block and glossopharyngeal nerve block have also been used (*Brown, 1999*).