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The humble bougie...forty years and still counting?

Rai MR

Quote:

“While challenging the need to elicit the hold-up sign, there are other important questions regarding the use of the bougie that need to be answered. Does there need to be a balance between the risk of infection and the risk of injury with the bougie, and is there sufficient evidence to suggest that the single-use bougie is ready to replace the reusable gum-elastic bougie? Is it time to have national guidelines on how we use, clean and sterilise the bougie, as there are for fiberoptic endoscopes? [68] There is no reason why something as important and as commonly used in anaesthetic practise as the humble bougie should not follow suit.”