Reviewer's report

Title: Endotracheal Tube Cuff Pressure Cannot Be Predicted Accurately without a Manometer

Version: 4 Date: 26 September 2004

Reviewer: Alexander Dullenkopf

Reviewer's report:

General

The authors Senguptas et al. present a revised version of their manuscript in which most of the criticisms of the first version are met. Still, there are a few points to be answered.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

Methods, p6: It is absolutely necessary that the authors specify which tubes were used. There are different Mallinckrodt tubes, give more details.

Discussion, p10: volume of air needed may be independent of tube size, but this is valid only for the same type of tube. Please add this information in the last-but-one sentence.

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Abstract, p2: I would recommend to restrict the abstract to cuff pressure testing and therefore to delete the last sentence of the Methods and Results sections.

Background, p3: Please, delete the sentence about patients with spontaneous ventilation, because this was not addressed in the study.

Background, p3: Please, correct: The Microcuff tube (your reference 3) is not with an ultra-thin cuff, but an ultra-thin cuff membrane made from polyurethane.

Background, p3: Please add, 20 cm H2O can be considered, if at all, as lower limit just in adult patients.

Background, p3: Please, correct in last sentence: 20 cm H2O.

Methods, p6: Please rephrase thze sentence: "The primary purpose...". It was not the purpose not to look at differences.

Methods, p6: As you state, all patients were paralyzed. Then, I think it was not neccessary to record if patients were breathing spontaneously?

Methods, p7: Cuff pressure is not checked by palpating the cuff but the pilot balloon. Please, correct.
Results, p8: Please delete sentence 2 and 3 (no results).

Results, p8: Please correct initial cuff pressure to measured cuff pressure.

--------------------------------------------------------------------------------
Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
None.