Reviewer's report

Title: The intuitive use of laryngeal airway tools by first year medical students

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Reviewer: Volker Dörges

Reviewer's report:

The authors underwent an interesting assessed of the intubating laryngeal mask airway (ILMA) and the LMA Classic in a simulated emergency setting and evaluated the intuitive use of these airway devices by first-year medical students as well as the short time effect of a simple training program.

Although written good in regards to language and editorial style, the manuscript may benefit from a language work-up by a native speaker.

However, there are some additional points that need to be answered or revised:

1. Study protocol: The second analysis was performed within one week after theoretical and practical training. Therefore, it is obvious that students achieved better results in this re-evaluation. It would have been of major interest if the authors had re-evaluated the students after 6 and 12 months and even later, in order to gain experience not only about short time skills but, additionally, after which time period refreshment of training is necessary to maintain skills. These important topics should be debated in the discussion and also in the limitation section. As a result, the need for ongoing studies, especially regarding this topic should be really pointed out.

2. Study protocol: Students did not inflate cuffs by themselves. Therefore, they were not able to confirm correct placement and sufficient ventilation/oxygenation. But, these steps essentially belong to the “handling of the device”. Preventing faults or inappropriate handling, since important parts of the process are performed by professionals, do not result in showing clearly lay users ability to handle unknown airway devices correctly. You should point out this lack of evidence in your limitation section.

3. For the same reason, measured insertion time does not reflect real conditions, and may only be used for comparison between groups.

4. Statistical analyses: For detection of distribution of data, the Kolmogorov-Smirnov-adjustment test should be performed previously in order to detect differences between groups. Results concerning insertion time and number of attempts should be given as median and range rather than as mean +/-S.D.

5. Results: Statistical significant increase in tidal volumes after training when using the LMA Classic is not of interest, since tidal volume achieved without training with this device already exceeds ERC recommendations. A short
comment should be given in the discussion.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.