Devices for Lung Isolation Used by Anesthesiologists with Limited Thoracic Experience

Comparison of Double-lumen Endotracheal Tube, Univent® Torque Control Blocker, and Arndt Wire-guided Endobronchial Blocker®

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Background: Lung isolation is accomplished with a double-lumen tube or a bronchial blocker. Previous studies comparing lung isolation methods were performed by experienced anesthesiologists in thoracic anesthesia. Therefore, the results of these studies may not be relevant to the anesthesiologist with limited experience. This study compared the success rates of lung isolation devices among anesthesiologists with limited experience in thoracic anesthesia.

Methods: A prospective, randomized trial was designed to determine the success and time required for proper placement of the left-sided double-lumen tube (n = 22), the Univent® tube (Vitaid Ltd., Lewiston, NY; n = 22), and the Arndt Blocker® (Cook Critical Care, Bloomington, IN; n = 22). Anesthesiologists with less than two lung isolation cases per month were included (faculty n = 17 and senior residents n = 11). Variables recorded included (1) successful placement (as determined by an independent observer), (2) time of placement, and (3) the number of times the fiberoptic bronchoscope was used.

Results: Participants failed to place or position their assigned device in 25 of 66 patients (failure was 39% among faculty and 36% among senior residents). The failure rate did not differ among the three devices (P = 0.65). The median (25th–75th percentile) times to complete the placement procedures were as follows: (1) double-lumen tube: 6.1 min (4.6–9.5 min), (2) Univent tube: 6.7 min (4.9–8.8 min), and (3) Arndt Blocker: 8.6 min (5.8–17.5 min) (P = 0.45 comparing all devices). After device malposition was identified, it took 1 min or less for the investigating anesthesiologist to achieve optimal position.

Conclusions: Anesthesiologists with limited experience in thoracic anesthesia frequently fail to successfully place lung isolation devices. Rapid successful device placement by an experienced anesthesiologist excluded any contribution of uniquely difficult anatomy. The nature of the malpositions suggests that the most critical factor in successful placement was the anesthesiologist’s knowledge of endoscopic bronchial anatomy.

LUNG isolation techniques are commonly used to facilitate surgical exposure and provide one-lung ventilation in patients undergoing a variety of intrathoracic surgical procedures. One-lung ventilation is currently achieved by two primary methods: (1) a double-lumen endotracheal tube or (2) a bronchial blocker (Univent® [Vitaid Ltd., Lewiston, NY] torque control blocker or wire-guided endobronchial Arndt Blocker® [Cook Critical Care, Bloomington, IN]). The comparative efficacy of these devices has been extensively studied, and most studies suggest similar rates of successful placement and lung collapse.

A limitation common to existing comparative studies is that they were all conducted by anesthesiologists with particular interest and expertise in thoracic anesthesia who perform lung isolation procedures on a routine basis. However, in many practices, lung isolation is an uncommon procedure and is performed by anesthesiologists who do not specialize in thoracic anesthesia. In addition, lung isolation is needed for many procedures performed outside of the regular thoracic surgical suite—and hence is performed by clinicians with less experience. As a result, the available information regarding the utility of lung isolation devices may not apply to anesthesiologists who only occasionally need to establish one-lung ventilation. With the increasing demand for one-lung ventilation, it is important to define which device can be used most effectively by occasional users.

The aim of this study was to determine whether there were meaningful and significant differences in the success with which anesthesiologists with limited experience in the use of lung isolation methods were able to correctly place and position three different devices. The devices tested were (1) a left-sided double-lumen endotracheal tube, (2) a Univent® torque control blocker, and (3) an Arndt Blocker®. Specific endpoints were: (1) the incidence of failed device placement or malposition and (2) the time to complete the device placement procedure (regardless of subsequently assessed success).

In addition, as an indirect measurement of the practitioner’s skill with a fiberoptic bronchoscope, we also assessed the number of times the practitioner removed and reinserted the fiberoptic bronchoscope during their placement efforts. Finally, to insure that failures were not due to unique anatomical conditions, whenever a failure or malposition was identified, we recorded the...
time required for an experienced thoracic anesthesiologist (J. H. C.) to correctly reposition the device.

Materials and Methods

After approval by our Human Subjects Committee (Human Subjects Office, The University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa), written informed consent was obtained from each of the 66 patients who participated in the study and also from each of the 28 participating anesthesiologists. The anesthesiologists were either faculty members (n = 17) or senior residents in their last year of training (n = 11) in the Department of Anesthesia at The University of Iowa. Patients (age range, 21–82 yr; weight range, 49–140 kg) undergoing elective thoracic or esophageal surgical procedures for which one-lung ventilation was required were included in the study. Exclusion criteria included a history of difficult airway/intubation or a Mallampati class III or IV airway as determined during preoperative evaluation. To be eligible, study anesthesiologists needed to have some general familiarity with the three lung isolation devices but must have not performed an anesthetic procedure involving lung isolation more than twice in the preceding month.

The day before the study, each participating anesthesiologist was given a standardized tutorial on the use of all three devices. This included a hands-on demonstration on how to manipulate the devices and a pictorial review of the fiberoptic views that constituted proper positioning.

Patients were assigned randomly to one of three groups:

1. Double-lumen endotracheal tube: Patients in this group (n = 22; 13 men and 9 women) were managed with the left-sided Broncho-Cath® (Mallinckrodt Medical Inc., St. Louis, MO.)
2. Univent®: Patients in this group (n = 22; 17 men and 5 women) were managed with the Univent® torque control blocker (Vitaid Ltd.).
3. Arndt Blocker®: Patients in this group (n = 22; 11 men and 11 women) were intubated with a standard endotracheal tube (Mallinckrodt Medical Inc., St. Louis, MO.), and lung isolation was then achieved with a wire-guided Arndt endobronchial blocker with a spherical-shaped balloon (Cook Critical Care).

Group assignments were made via random number sequence. Numbered, opaque envelopes were prepared containing the group assignments and chosen randomly. The envelope was then opened by the participating anesthesiologist just before anesthetic induction.

Anesthesia

One faculty anesthesiologist (J. H. C.) was responsible for the care of all patients. This individual managed the induction of the patients as well as all aspects of their care after placement of the lung isolation device but did not attempt to advise or supervise the participating anesthesiologists during tube-placement efforts. All patients received intravenous glycopyrrolate (0.3–0.4 mg) before surgery. After placement of standard monitors and radial arterial catheters, anesthesia was induced with either thiopental (3–5 mg/kg), propofol (1–2 mg/kg), or etomidate (0.1–0.3 mg/kg) and maintained with fentanyl (5–10 μg/kg) and inhaled isoflurane (0.5–2.0%) in oxygen. A nondepolarizing muscle relaxant was used for paralysis.

Intubation

While the criteria for selecting the proper size of endotracheal tube were reviewed in the training session (see Materials and Methods section, second paragraph), the decision regarding the specific size used for any patient was left to the participating anesthesiologist.

1. The styletted double-lumen endotracheal tube was introduced into the glottis via direct laryngoscopy. After the bronchial cuff had passed the vocal cords, the stylet was removed, and the tube was rotated 90° toward the left and advanced until slight resistance was encountered. A fiberoptic bronchoscope was then used to verify correct positioning of the tube. If a malposition was identified, the tube was withdrawn until the endobronchial lumen was above the carina. A fiberoptic bronchoscope was then placed via the endobronchial lumen into the left mainstem bronchus and the tube then advanced over the endoscope into the bronchus.
2. Univent®: When the trachea had been intubated via direct laryngoscopy, the endobronchial blocker was advanced through its channel and directed into the right or left mainstem bronchus under fiberoptic guidance.
3. Arndt: In this group, tracheal intubation with a standard endotracheal tube was first accomplished via direct laryngoscopy. Then, the wire-guided endobronchial blocker (Arndt Blocker®) was advanced through the block port of the Arndt Multiport Adapter®, and a fiberoptic bronchoscope, which had been introduced through the fiberoptic port, was passed through the wire loop. The fiberoptic bronchoscope was then advanced into the desired mainstem bronchus, and the Arndt Blocker® was advanced into position.

In each patient, a stopwatch was started as soon as the endotracheal tube passed the vocal cords. The stopwatch was stopped (1) when the participating anesthesiologist concluded that the tube or bronchial blocker was correctly placed, (2) when the participating anesthesiologist concluded that placement was not possible, or (3) after a maximum of three placement attempts.
Unable to distinguish tracheal/bronchial anatomy

If a right mainstem bronchus intubation was planned, the blocker was

imated to permit the detection of at least a 2-min differ-

able-lumen endotracheal tube, or the Univent® or Arndt

the supine position, the endobronchial cuff of the dou-

scope was inserted into and then removed from the

endotracheal tube during positioning efforts was re-

en also verified after the patient had been turned into the

lateral position.

The following primary outcome variables were record-

ed: (1) the number of times tubes/devices were success-

fully positioned by the participating anesthesiologist; and

(2) the time required by the participating anesthesiologist to complete his or her efforts, regardless of

success. In addition, to indirectly assess the participating anesthesiologist’s skill with the fiberoptic broncho-

scope, the number of times that the fiberoptic broncho-

scope was inserted into and then removed from the endotracheal tube during positioning efforts was

recorded.

When satisfactory device placement was achieved in

the supine position, the endobronchial cuff of the dou-

ble-lumen endotracheal tube, or the Univent® or Arndt

balloons were deflated. For the bronchial blockers (Uni-

vent® and Arndt), after the cuff was deflated, the blocker

was also advanced 1 cm deeper into the airway before

starting lateral decubitus positioning. This was done to

limit blocker dislodgement when patients were turned.

Once patients were in the lateral decubitus position,

endobronchial cuff inflation was performed, and tube

placement was reassessed via fiberoptic bronchoscopy.

Before extubation, fiberoptic bronchoscopy was per-

formed in all patients to observe any damage to the

tracheal or bronchial mucosa.

Statistical Analysis

Based on previous studies,³ the sample size was calcu-

lated to permit the detection of at least a 2-min differ-

ence between any two groups in the time to device

placement, with an α of 0.05 and power of 0.80.

Values are expressed as median with 25th–75th per-

centile (interquartile range) unless otherwise specified.

The log-rank test was used to compare time to successful

tube positioning of the three device types (double-lumen
.tm endotracheal tube vs. Univent® vs. Arndt Blocker® in the

supine position). Failed attempts were considered as

censored at the time of positioning of the failed attempt

in the analysis of tube positioning time. The distribution

of cumulative percentage of the devices correctly posi-

tioned after 4, 6, 8, and 10 min was calculated using

Kaplan-Meier curves.

The proportion of failed attempts was compared

among the devices, controlling for anesthesiologist, and

between anesthesiologists (faculty vs. senior resident),

controlling for device, using the Cochran-Mantel Haens-

zel statistic. The Kruskal-Wallis test was used to compare

the number of fiberoptic bronchoscopies performed in

the supine position and the total number of fiberoptic

bronchoscopies among the three devices. The Wilcoxon

rank sum test was used to compare the number of

fiberoptic bronchoscopies in the successful and failed

studies.

Results

The surgical procedures performed are listed in table

2. The number of thoracoscopies and thoracotomies in
each group did not significantly differ, nor did the num-
bers of left- and right-sided procedures.

The three groups of patients studied were equivalent
with regard to age, weight, and sex. In the double-lumen
endotracheal tube group, the tube sizes were 35 French
(n = 3), 37 French (n = 6), 39 French (n = 5), and 41
French (n = 8). Univent® bronchial blockers placed
were 7.5-mm ID (n = 5) and 8.0-mm ID (n = 17).

Single-lumen endotracheal tubes for the Arndt Blocker®

Table 1. Malposition Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Double-lumen Endotracheal Tube Group (n = 22)</th>
<th>Univent® Group (n = 22)</th>
<th>Arndt® Group (n = 22)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lung biopsy</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lung wedge resection</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Segmentectomy</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lobectomy</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pericardial window</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mediastinal mass resection</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esophageal surgery</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sympathectomy</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lingulectomy</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hiatal hernia repair</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wedge resection + pleurodesis</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lobectomy + pleurodesis</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2. Surgical Procedures Requiring One-lung Ventilation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Procedure</th>
<th>Double-lumen Endotracheal Tube Group (n = 22)</th>
<th>Univent® Group (n = 22)</th>
<th>Arndt® Group (n = 22)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lobectomy</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wedge resection + pleurodesis</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lobectomy + pleurodesis</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
9.0F were 8.0-mm ID (n = 5), 8.5-mm ID (n = 16), and 9.0-mm ID (n = 1).

As shown in table 3, participating anesthesiologists failed to achieve proper position of the one-lung ventilation device in 25 of 66 patients (38%; 95% confidence interval, 26–51%). Figure 1 shows the success/failure studies for each device for faculty or senior residents. There was no significant difference among the three devices in the frequency of failure (P = 0.65; table 3). There was no significant difference between faculty and senior residents in the frequency of failure (P = 0.87; table 3). The reasons for failed studies for the three groups are listed in table 4.

The failed attempts were included in the analysis but were considered as censored at the time of positioning of the failed attempt. The median times (interquartile range = 25th–75th percentile) for placement of the devices are shown in table 5. There was no significant difference in time to successful tube positioning among the three devices (log-rank test, P = 0.45). After a failed placement was identified, it took between 10 and 105 additional seconds for the supervising anesthesiologist to achieve optimal position of any of the three devices studied.

There was no significant difference among the three devices in the number of fiberoptic bronchoscopies performed (P = 0.85 for supine; P = 0.99 for total). Comparison between successful and failed device placements showed that failed studies had required a significantly greater number of fiberoptic bronchoscopies than the successful studies during supine placement (P < 0.0001) as well as in total (P < 0.0001).

There were no recognized complications as a result of tube placement or one-lung ventilation. No abnormal findings were found in the tracheal or bronchial mucosa during bronchoscopic examination before withdrawal of these tubes.

**Discussion**

With the increasing demand for one-lung ventilation in both thoracic surgery and other procedures (e.g., spine surgery), identifying the most effective device (double-lumen endotracheal tube or bronchial blocker) for the anesthesiologist with limited experience in lung isolation techniques would benefit our patients. However, we were unable to demonstrate any advantage associating device choice with success of positioning.

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**Table 3. Failed Device Placement among Participating Anesthesiologists of 17 Faculty and 11 Senior Residents**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Device</th>
<th>Total (for All Anesthesiologists)</th>
<th>Faculty</th>
<th>Senior Residents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>n</td>
<td>Count</td>
<td>Percent (95% CI)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total (all devices)</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>38 (26–51)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DLT</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>36 (17–59)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Univent®</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>32 (14–55)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arndt®</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>45 (24–68)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Controlling for device. † Controlling for anesthesiologist (faculty or resident).

Cl = confidence interval; DLT = double-lumen endotracheal tube.

CI = confidence interval; DLT = double-lumen endotracheal tube.

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Fig. 1. Displays the success/failure of studies for each device for faculty or senior residents. X represents the number of subjects in each group (individual participants), and Y represents the time that it took to place the device. (A) Double-lumen tube (DLT) group, (B) Univent® group, and (C) Arndt® group.
ated with the use of any of the three devices tested. In fact, we observed a high incidence of placement failure or device malpositioning with all three techniques. Failure to properly place the three devices was similar among faculty (39%) and senior residents (36%) despite each participant having received a tutorial before each study.

Previous studies have shown that time for successful tube placement of a double-lumen endotracheal tube or bronchial blocker range from 2 to 3 min among anesthesiologists with special interest and expertise in thoracic anesthesia. In contrast, in this study, the time for successful placement (correct placement only) averaged between 6 and 9 min, regardless of the device used. The long placement time and high malposition rate suggest (although do not prove) that the common problem may be unfamiliarity with anatomical landmarks or with the use of fiberoptic bronchoscopes.

Brodsky et al. suggest that for anesthesiologists who only occasionally use a double-lumen endotracheal tube in their practice, adjuncts such as fiberoptic bronchoscopy are extremely helpful and should be used. Although we did not compare tube placement with or without fiberoptic bronchoscopy and hence cannot determine whether its use altered success rates, our study does suggest that fiberoptic bronchoscopy is often not sufficient to ensure success. A second associated problem was difficulty encountered while using the fiberoptic bronchoscope along with the device (e.g., the double-lumen endotracheal tube endobronchial cuff fully inflated within the trachea) and inability to continue the placement of the tube within the left bronchus. Several experts in thoracic anesthesia have advocated the use of fiberoptic bronchoscopy to place lung isolation devices and diagnose and correct malpositions (Campos, Brodsky and Lemmens, Slinger, and Benumof).

Malposition of a double-lumen endotracheal tube or bronchial blocker can result in either a lack of lung collapse or progressive desaturation. One study has

### Table 4. Reasons for Failure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Device Group</th>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Double-lumen endotracheal tube</td>
<td>DLT too far out (endobronchial lumen in the trachea)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unable to identify tracheal or bronchial anatomy</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Endobronchial cuff herniated above the tracheal carina</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DLT too far in (endobronchial lumen occluding the entrance of left upper lobe)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Univent® group</td>
<td>Bronchial blocker placed in the bronchus intermedius</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bronchial blocker fully inflated in the trachea</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bronchial blocker placed in the opposite bronchus</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bronchial blocker herniated above the tracheal carina</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bronchial blocker too far into the left bronchus</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Univent® tube too far in, unable to position bronchial blocker in the right mainstem bronchus</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arndt group</td>
<td>Bronchial blocker herniated above the tracheal carina</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unable to identify tracheal–bronchial anatomy</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bronchial blocker too far in the bronchus intermedius</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bronchial blocker placed in the bronchus intermedius</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bronchial blocker placed in the opposite bronchus</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>bronchus</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bronchial blocker inflated in the trachea</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DLT = double-lumen endotracheal tube.

### Table 5. Time for Placement of the Devices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Time to Successful Positioning, Median (25th–75th Percentile), min</th>
<th>Minutes from Start</th>
<th>Cumulative Percentage (95% CI)</th>
<th>Compare Successful Positioning Distribution among Devices</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DLT</td>
<td>6.1 (4.6–9.5)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>9 (1–57)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>48 (22–83)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>64 (34–92)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>73 (39–97)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Univent®</td>
<td>6.7 (4.9–8.7)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>9 (1–57)</td>
<td>Log-rank test, P = 0.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>32 (11–71)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>63 (31–93)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>78 (43–98)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arndt Blocker®</td>
<td>8.5 (5.7–17.5)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>9 (0.2–62)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>29 (9–70)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>49 (21–87)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>64 (31–94)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* 75th percentile not defined because only 73% were successfully positioned, with the longest observed time for successful positioning at 9.5 min.

DLT = double-lumen endotracheal tube.
shown that if the double-lumen endotracheal tube is malpositioned after the patient is turned into the lateral decubitus position, there is an increased incidence of hypoxemia during attempted one-lung ventilation.17 Also, previous studies have shown that the incidence of malpositions, if recognized, can be corrected after the tubes are placed.5,8,9 In the current study, greater than 90% of the malpositions occurred after initial placement in the supine position and were not recognized by the participating anesthesiologist.

The definition of malposition may have introduced observer bias and may have increased the probability of a type II error. In some cases, the endotracheal tube (device) might have functioned well despite being “malpositioned” as with a bronchial cuff herniation, tube position characteristics that would likely result in incomplete lung deflation or desaturation. However, in many cases, the nature of the malpositioning would have made lung deflation impossible if not corrected. Additional bias may be introduced by the fact that a single investigator (J. H. C.) determined tube malposition. However, this feature of the study design reduces variability in the determination of malposition. When malposition was identified, approximately 1 min was necessary to correct the problem by the supervising anesthesiologist. This effectively eliminates the possibility that malpositioning was due to some unique anatomical difficulty.

To date, there is no clinical trial that defines the experience necessary for proficiency in lung isolation techniques. It is important during training that every trainee become knowledgeable not only about the devices themselves, but about fiberoptic bronchoscopy techniques and tracheobronchial anatomy. Also, anesthesiologists with limited experience in one-lung ventilation devices should have more exposure to these types of devices. Perhaps a different teaching method, such as an anatomical simulator that combines correct placement of the devices along with correct fiberoptic bronchoscopy technique, would help the anesthesiologist with limited experience to gain more experience.

In conclusion, this study demonstrates a high rate of unrecognized malpositions among anesthesiologists with limited experience in lung isolation when placing a left-sided double-lumen endotracheal tube, Univent® blocker, or Arndt Blocker®. In this study, no device provided an advantage to the anesthesiologist with limited experience in thoracic anesthesia. Therefore, the limiting factor was not the device itself. A review of the malpositions indicates that a combination of unfamiliarity with tracheobronchial anatomy and skill in fiberoptic bronchoscopy was responsible for most of the malpositions. Further studies are needed to compare the effectiveness of different methods to teach correct placement of lung isolation devices.

References