

Fig. 1. Transverse view of the cricothyroid membrane (CTM). Tc = thyroid cartilage.

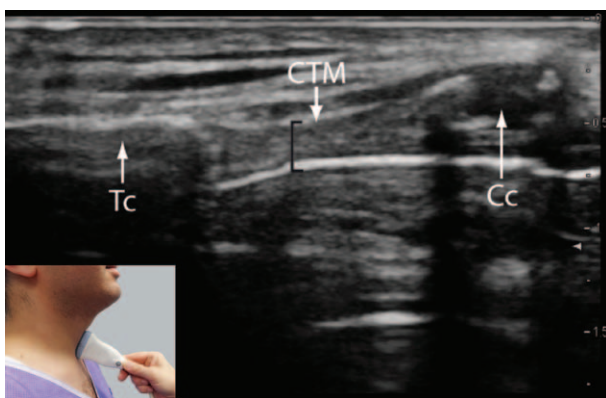


Fig. 2. Sagittal view of the cricothyroid membrane (CTM). Cc = cricoid cartilage; Tc = thyroid cartilage.

Singh *et al.*³ We understand that this image was not necessarily intended to present a true sonoanatomic view but was rather an artistic illustration of airway ultrasound. This might, however, be confounding for readers not familiar with ultrasound imaging of the airway because it is the only image illustrating these two articles. Furthermore, this image might lead to puncture failure and/or adverse events if anesthesiologists try to find a view similar to the one presented in the Editorial. The cricothyroid membrane located nearly 2 cm caudal to the hyoid bone has a characteristic ultrasound feature. In the transverse plane, it appears as a slight depression at the caudal border of the thyroid cartilage, framed by the lateral wings of the thyroid cartilage or the cricoid cartilage, according to the level of the scan (fig. 1). In the sagittal plane, it also appears as a depression of 7- to 12-mm long in adults, lying between the lower border of the thyroid cartilage and the upper border of the cricoid cartilage (fig. 2). This latter picture is in agreement with the description made by Kristensen.⁴ We hope this letter can help those who were interested in this topic.

Competing Interests

The authors declare no competing interests.

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In Reply:

I want to thank Drs. Zetlaoui and Benhamou for pointing out the shortcomings of the ultrasound image I created to accompany a recent Editorial View¹ and Original Research Article² on the use of ultrasound to improve the safety of cricothyrotomy. Truth be told, this is my very own tracheal anatomy exactly at the level of the cricothyroid membrane. However, a combination of my own anatomy (small distance between my cricoid and thyroid cartilages) and the ultrasound probe that I had on hand that day conspired to make it impossible to get an image that nicely demonstrated the ultrasonographic anatomy of the cricothyroid membrane itself. I want to thank these authors for reading the journal so closely and for taking the time to assemble the excellent images for our readers.

Competing Interests

The author declares no competing interests.

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