In this edition of the EBM Hub, we’ll be discussing the current article by Flugstad et al. concerning the use of funnel insertion devices in reducing the incidence of capsular contracture in primary breast augmentation. As we’ve now had several examples of Hub analyses, we’d like to challenge you to make your own assessment and then watch our video and see how your assessment compares to ours.

The authors examined the incidence of capsular contracture in two groups of patients undergoing augmentation mammoplasty in several large practices at two time periods. The first group included patients who had funnel-assisted augmentation and a second group that did not (before the funnel was introduced). For each group they calculated the number of capsular contractures at 12 months after surgery that lead to repeat operation for that specific indication. Based on this information, they concluded that the use of the funnel reduced the incidence of capsular contracture by 54%.

Whenever performing a critical appraisal of an article, our goal is to identify methodological weaknesses or potential sources of bias which may affect the validity of the conclusions. As you consider the methods in this article, try thinking about the following questions:

1. How might the method of selection of the practice groups involved affect the result?
2. How might the selection of patients affect the outcome?
3. The authors used a survey to assess whether other practice changes (besides the use of the funnel) may have contributed to a change in capsular contracture rates. How might that method affect validity? How might it have been done differently?

4. The authors state that the number of patients lost to follow up is unknown. By what mechanisms might differences in follow up occur and alter results?
5. Examine the conflict of interest disclosure. By what specific mechanisms might the conflict of interest affected the conclusions? How likely is this?
6. In light of your critical analysis, what do you think of the authors’ self-assessment of their current and potential future study methods and conclusions?

7. Based on your critical assessment, are you convinced there is enough evidence to change your practice now in order to reduce capsular contracture? Why or why not?

Check out our video at https://goo.gl/ne6NmV and let’s compare!

**Supplementary Material**

This article contains supplementary material located online at www.aestheticsurgeryjournal.com.

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REFERENCES