CLAIMS

1. A guiding device for use with a laryngoscope for assisting in the insertion of an endotracheal tube into a patient, the device comprising

a guiding paddle for guiding an endotracheal tube through the patient's upper airways, and

attachment means to attach the guiding paddle to the blade of the laryngoscope, wherein the guiding paddle extends outward substantially level to and in the plane of the upper or lower surface of the blade of the laryngoscope.

2. The guiding device according to claim 1, wherein the guiding paddle is releasably coupled to the endotracheal tube.

3. The guiding device according to claim 2, wherein the guiding paddle is made of a flexible material.

4. The guiding device according to any preceding claim, wherein the guiding paddle is movable relative to a surface of the blade.

5. The guiding device according to claim 4, wherein the guiding paddle is attached to the blade or the attachment means by means of one or more hinge elements.

6. The guiding device according to any preceding claim, wherein the attachment means comprises a sleeve capable of enclosing, partly or wholly, the blade of the laryngoscope.

7. The guiding device according to any preceding claim, wherein the device extends longitudinally from the distal end of the blade of the laryngoscope to form an extended tip.

8. The guiding device according to any preceding claim, the device further comprises one or more channels in which visualisation means can be secured or removably inserted.

9. The guiding device according to any preceding claim, wherein the guiding device is made, partly or wholly, of a transparent material.

10. The guiding device according to any preceding claim, wherein the guiding device is made, partly or wholly, of a disposable material.

11. The guiding device according to claim 10, wherein the guiding paddle comprises two guiding paddles, one guiding paddle providing a surface that the endotracheal tube can glide over and the other guiding paddle partially

enclosing the endotracheal tube to help prevent displacement of the endotracheal tube during insertion.

12. The guiding device according to claim 10, wherein the guiding paddle comprises two guiding paddles, one guiding paddle located on one side of the device and the othet guiding paddle located on the other side of the device.

13. A laryngoscope comprising a guiding device according to any preceding claim.

14. The laryngoscope according to claim 13 further comprising indirect means for visualising the laryngeal inlet.

15. The laryngoscope according to claim 14, wherein the visualisation means comprises a light source, fibreoptic visualisation means, a camera and/or a display screen.

CLAIMS

1. A guiding device for use with a laryngoscope for assisting in the insertion of an endotracheal tube into a patient, the device comprising

a guiding paddle for guiding an endotracheal tube through the patient's upper airways, and

attachment means to attach the guiding paddle to the blade of the laryngoscope, wherein the guiding paddle extends outward substantially level to and in the plane of the upper or lower surface of the blade of the laryngoscope.

2. The guiding device according to claim 1, wherein the guiding ~~means~~ paddle is releasably coupled to the endotracheal tube.

3. The guiding device according to claim 2, wherein the guiding ~~means~~ paddle is made of a flexible material.

4. The guiding device according to any preceding claim, wherein the guiding ~~means~~paddle is movable relative to a surface of the blade.

5. The guiding device according to claim 4, wherein the guiding ~~means~~paddle is attached to the blade or the attachment means by means of one or more hinge elements.

6. The guiding device according to any preceding claim, wherein the attachment means comprises a sleeve capable of enclosing, partly or wholly, the blade of the laryngoscope.

7. The guiding device according to any preceding claim, wherein the device extends longitudinally from the distal end of the blade of the laryngoscope to form an extended tip.

8. The guiding device according to any preceding claim, the device further comprises one or more channels in which visualisation means can be secured or removably inserted.

9. The guiding device according to any preceding claim, wherein the guiding device is made, partly or wholly, of a transparent material.

10. The guiding device according to any preceding claim, wherein the guiding device is made, partly or wholly, of a disposable material.

11. The guiding device according to claim 10, wherein the guiding ~~means~~paddle comprises two guiding paddles, one guiding paddle providing a surface that the endotracheal tube can glide over and the other guiding paddle

partially enclosing the endotracheal tube to help prevent displacement of the endotracheal tube during insertion.

12. The guiding device according to claim 10, wherein the guiding ~~means~~paddle comprises two guiding paddles, one guiding paddle located on one side of the device and the othet guiding paddle located on the other side of the device.

13. A laryngoscope comprising a guiding device according to any preceding claim.

14. The laryngoscope according to claim 13 further comprising indirect means for visualising the laryngeal inlet.

15. The laryngoscope according to claim 14, wherein the visualisation means comprises a light source, fibreoptic visualisation means, a camera and/or a display screen.

~~16. The guiding device according to any preceding claim, wherein the guiding paddle has a surface extending outwards and substantially level to a lower surface of the blade.~~