

## Letters to the editor

### **A simple way to prevent infection from removed laryngeal mask airways**

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*To the editor:* It is important that all anesthesiologists pay attention to reducing the risk of exposure to blood-borne hazards. Recently, occult blood contamination was reported to occur in 76% of laryngeal mask airways (LMAs), while visible blood contamination occurred in 12% [1]. The presence of various secretions also increases the risk of contamination. We have devised a simple means to protect the operating room from blood- and/or secretion-mediated

contamination after the removal of LMAs, using a common operating-room tool.

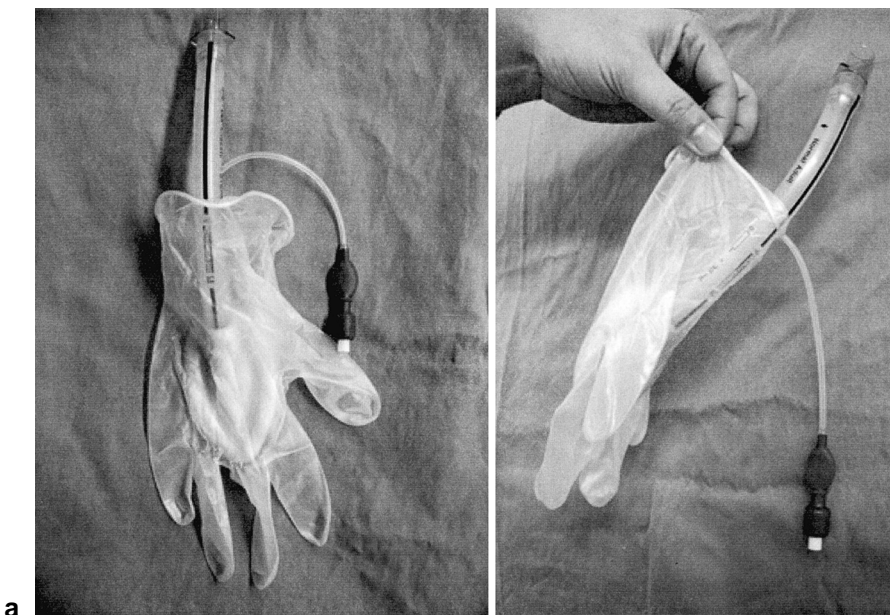
Figure 1a shows the LMA in a disposable plastic glove that was used to insert the LMA. Putting the LMA into the glove is easier if the edge of the glove is picked up (Fig. 1b). This technique allows disposal of the LMA without the risk of contamination.

### **Reference**

1. Parker MRJ, Day CJE (2000) Visible and occult blood contamination of laryngeal mask airways and tracheal tubes used in adult anaesthesia. *Anaesthesia* 55:388–390

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**Fig. 1.** **a** The laryngeal mask airway (LMA) is put into a disposable plastic glove; **b** Lifting the edge of the glove. This technique allows disposal of the LMA without the risk of blood contamination