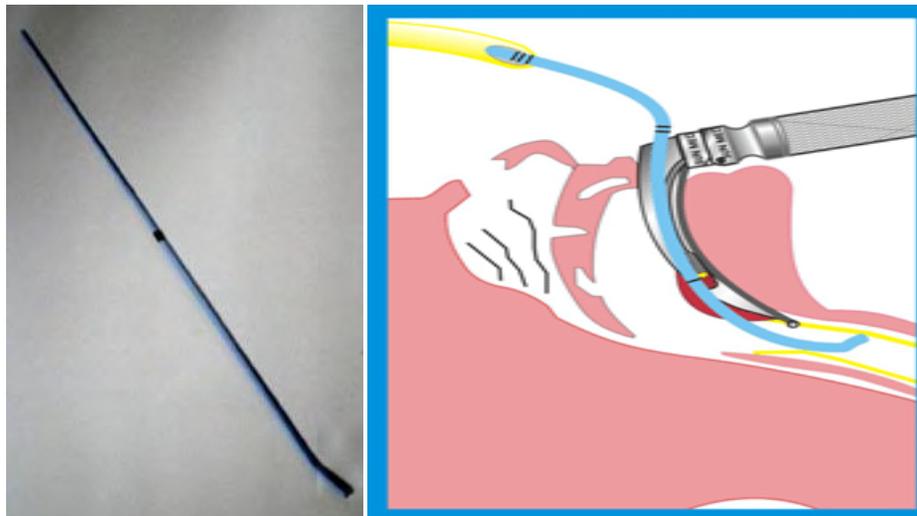




Flex Guide ETT Introducer

The Flex-Guide™ Introducer (also known as the Gum Elastic Bougie)

The Flex-Guide™ Introducer is a single patient use, semi-rigid plastic rod with an angled tip, promoting glottic passage when the vocal cords are incompletely visible during laryngoscopy. A 1 cm wide black band is located along the Flex-Guide™ to help determine correct placement depth. The Flex-Guide™ shape and elasticity allow the intubator to feel a “washboard” sensation as the anteriorly-angled tip is advanced down the tracheal rings. Failure to feel a “washboard” sensation indicates inadvertent esophageal placement and the Flex-Guide™ must be fully withdrawn before reattempting placement. The Flex-Guide™ length allows it to be advanced to the carina where resistance is met, also a means of confirming tracheal rather than esophageal placement. Avoid storing the Flex-Guide™ coiled, as it works best in these regards when it is straight. The Flex-Guide™ is contraindicated in patients ≤ 16 years of age.



Flex-Guide™ Introducer Technique:

1. Advance the angled tip facing anteriorly, with continual visualization by laryngoscopy. Anytime resistance is met, stop advancing and reassess placement - forceful passage can result in perforation of soft tissues.
2. Stabilize the Flex-Guide™ when in place, while maintaining laryngoscopy
3. Direct a colleague to slide the endotracheal tube over the Flex-Guide™. He or she stabilizes the proximal end of the Flex-Guide™ as it emerges from the sliding endotracheal tube.
4. Take control of the endotracheal tube, sliding it down the Flex-Guide™ length, while being careful to avoid Flex-Guide™ migration. Once the endotracheal tube has passed to an appropriate estimated endotracheal depth, stabilize it while your colleague withdraws the Flex-Guide™ prior to laryngoscope removal.