Treatment of pediatric airway foreign body

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【Background】Treatment of pediatric airway foreign body (FB) is difficult by the lack of sufficient medical devices. We report our operative resources and the outcomes in our institution.【Methods】The study included 24 children (14 boys and 10 girls; median age, 18 [9–60] months) from 1994 to 2011. The operative techniques and the outcomes were examined.【Results】In 21 cases, the FB involved were beans, and each patient had bead and dental prostheses. All patients were operated under general anesthesia to by using a laryngeal mask and were managed with a flexible bronchoscope: BF−p series (outer diameter, 5.3 mm; Olympus, Tokyo). Mean operation time was 58 ± 54 min. In 14 cases, grasping forceps; in 6 cases, basket forceps; and in 2 cases, Fogarty catheters were used. After an introduction of originally designed grasping forceps for a 2.0−mm channel diameter since July 2003, it became easier to remove FB. The mean operation time was shortened to 37 ± 27 min (range, 7–75 min) compared to the traditional of 82 ± 53 min (range, 23–147 min) (p<0.01).【Conclusion】We successfully reduced the operation time by using a new type of FB forceps.