

Project: Ghana Emergency Medicine Collaborative

Document Title: My Bougie and Me

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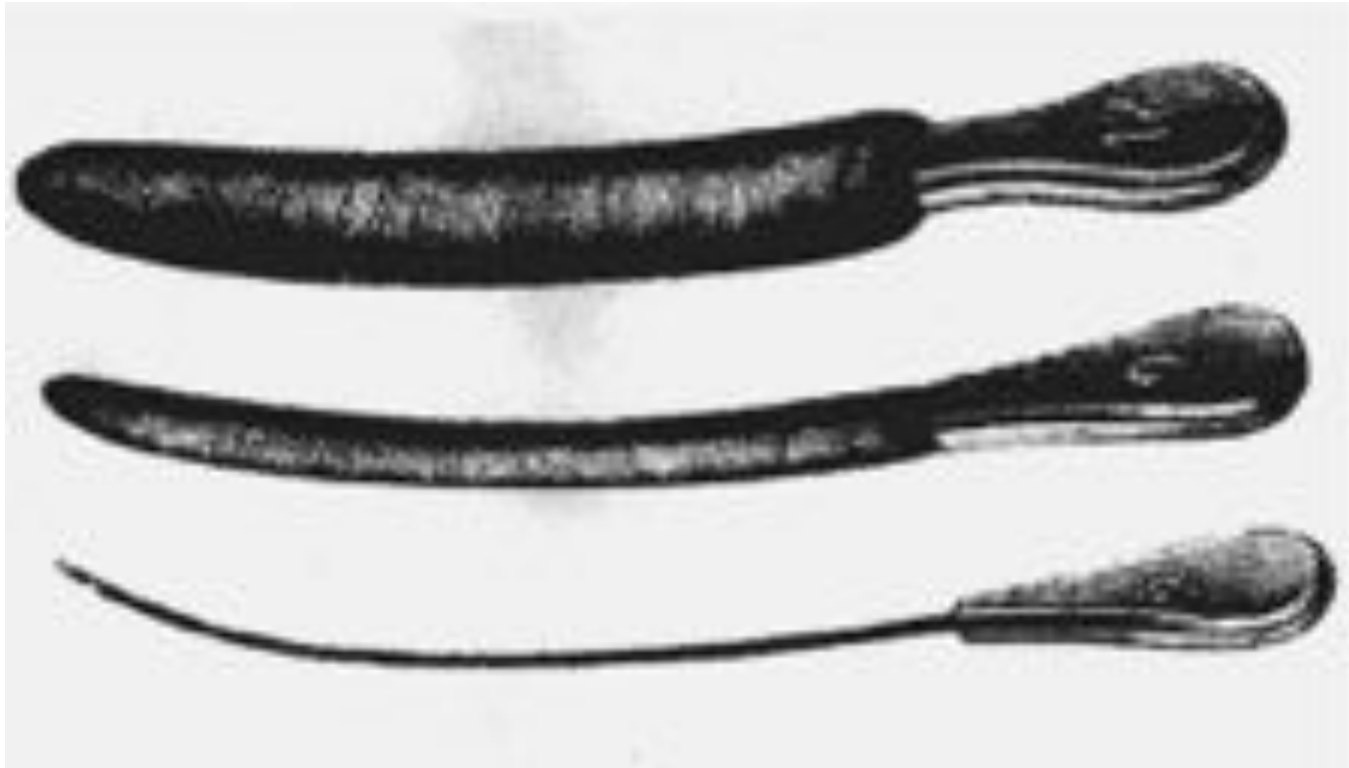
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History

- The term bougie originally described any flexible, slender, dilator-type device that was inserted into any body orifice for examination or dilation.
- The term was also used for wax candles, as bougie is an old French word for fine wax, originating from Bejaia (bougie), a city in northern Algeria
- The bougie was first used by Robert Macintosh in 1943 when he encountered difficulty visualizing the vocal cords during ET intubation.

What is it?

- Fiberglass core covered by resin
- 60 cm long
- 5 mm in diameter (15 French)
- 38° distal bend
- Fits ETT > size 6



How do I use it?

- Attempt visualization of vocal cords as usual
- If unable, pass the bougie anterior to the epiglottis towards the trachea
- Move up and down to feel tracheal clicks or end point
- Have assistant thread ETT over bougie as you maintain its position
- Leave laryngoscope in place
- May rotate ETT 90° if resistance met at larynx
- Inflate balloon and proceed as usual

Other uses

- May be used as a stylet for ETT
- Blind intubation has been described
- Tracheal place-holder during video laryngoscopy
- Back-scratcher

Thank You



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