3D Printing as an Educational and Capacitiy Building Medical Resource for Resource-Limited Settings



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Background

- 3D printing is widely available and cheap

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- Medical equipment can be printed for medical education in resource limited settings
- Kenya is a low healthcare resource country that uses 3D printing and localization of 3DP for production of medical equipment
- There are few academic studies on the use of 3DP in medical education
- The lack of 3DP studies along with the increasingly cheaper and more accessible resource, necessitates further exploration into the efficacy of 3D printed laryngoscopes as a training tool compared to commercial video laryngoscopes

Methods

- 3DP video laryngoscope was created via PLA filament printing
- 3DP video laryngoscope was based on the Glidescope GO measurements using OpenSCAD
- Data was retrieved from medical students from CUSM and was recorded via video on intubation attempts
- Medical Students received a standardized video and instruction from either a student researcher or faculty member
- Controls were trained using Glidescope Go while Experimental used 3DP video laryngoscope
- Students intubated as many times as possible in 10 minutes using commercial video laryngoscope
- Survey was collected on user experience and other factors

Control	3DP
10 min training w/ Glidescope GO	10 min training w/ 3DP Laryngoscope
10 min intubation trails w/ Glidescope Go	10 min intubation trials w/ Glidescope Go

DATAControl3DPIntubations attempted192164Mean attempts per student36.0141.39Mean intubation time (s)3641STD18.46520.095

Table 1. Data. Data collection of attempts and average time of intubation during Block 1

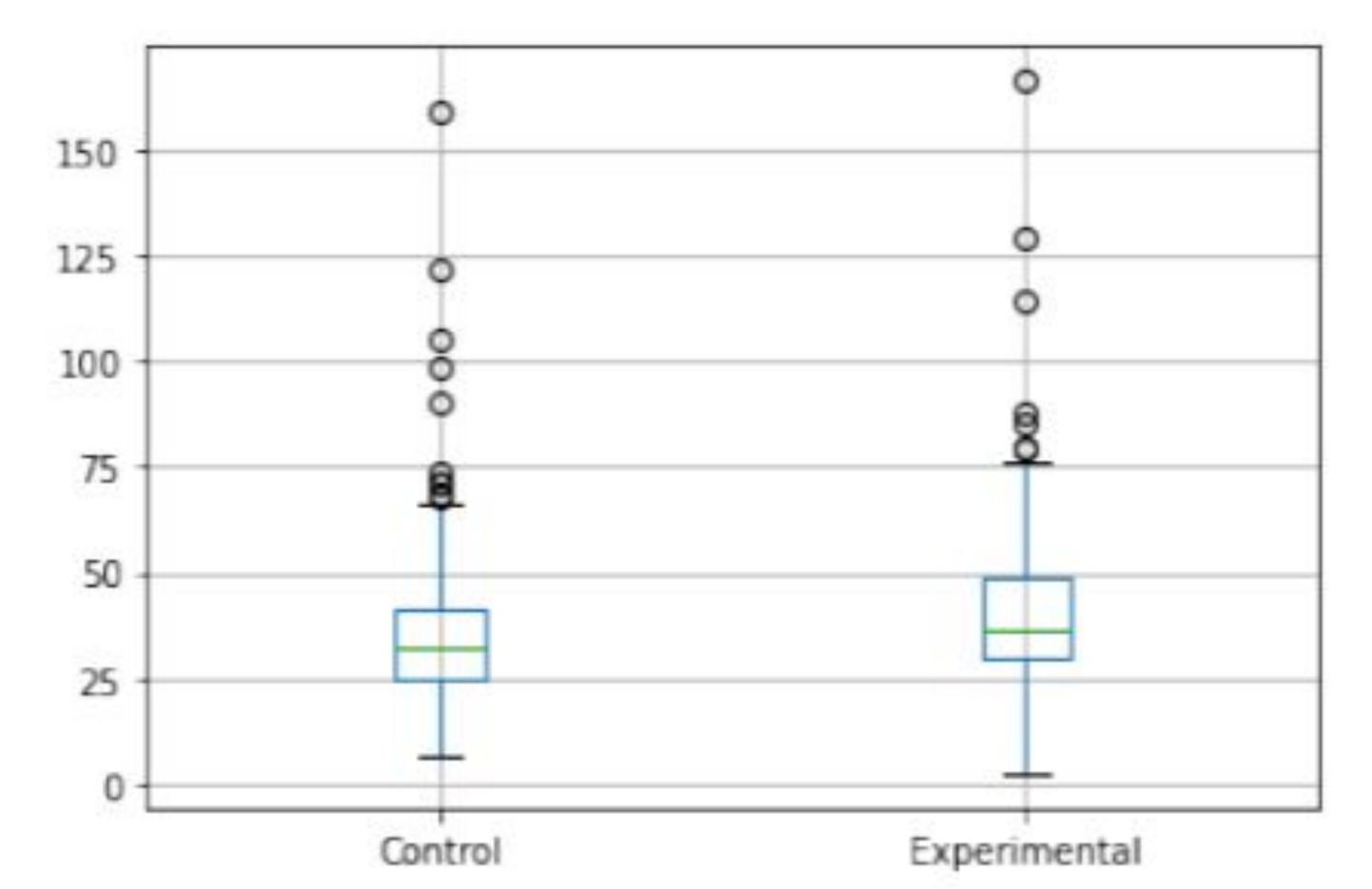


Figure 1. Comparison of all intubation time attempts made by the control and experimental (3DP) group





Figure 2. Image of the 3DP video laryngoscope (left) and commercial Glidescope GO (right) which uses a phone as a screen attachment

Results

- Students trained with the Glidescope made a total of 192 attempts during the testing block while students trained with the 3DP laryngoscope made 164 attempts
- 1 Tailed T-test results indicate statistically significant difference between intubating with commercial laryngoscopes and 3DP laryngoscopes during Block 1 (p = 0.004)

Discussion/Conclusion

- There is a statistical difference between the control and 3DP experimental group
- Conclusions about the cause of this difference cannot be drawn based on the current data
- 3DP video laryngoscopes continues to be a potential training tool for resource limited areas

Limitations & Future Directions

- The statistical difference calculated does not exclude failed intubation attempts nor control for any confounding factors such as teeth breaks or restarted attempts
- Further studies should seek to determine if these other factors affect results
- Further studies should seek to evaluate the user experience of students that may have affected results
- Further collaborations and studies with low healthcare resource areas that can implement 3DP laryngoscope in medical training

References & Acknowledgments

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