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Laryngoscope with cam can intubate patients on ventilator from a distance

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Lucknow: During the second wave of coronavirus pandemic, a large number of patients required intubation which, as per studies, comes with 20% chances of fatal airway complications.

To provide easy ventilator support to patients and keep doctors safe from Covid risk, Era's Lucknow Medical College and Hospital (ELMCH) has developed a novel video laryngoscope.

ELMCH has already applied for its patent and the study on the device's success has been peer-reviewed and published in the international Critical Care Innovations (CCI) journal. Ditching original laryngoscopes - used for intubating of patients on ventilator support - which are

The low-cost video laryngoscope has been developed by Era's Lucknow Medical College and Hospital. It provides remote access, protecting doctors from getting too close to a Covid patient. It helps in seamless intubation without injury

bulky, expensive and do not come with a camera, Era's innovation is 90% cheaper than the original equipment. The video can be accessed on a phone, tablet or a bigger monitor.

Chief developer and head of ELMCH's critical care department, Dr Mustahsin Malik, told TOI: "The video laryngoscope comes with a camera for remote access protecting doctors from getting too close to a Covid patient. It helps in seamless intubation without injury or risk to the patient and also comes with

constant supply of oxygen for patient during intubation process." The institute started developing the equipment during the first wave and was able to successfully use it on all patients requiring intubation at ELMCH.

"We have expertise to help other institutions develop the equipment or we can do it for them. Commercial bulkier laryngoscopes cost around USD 1500 but we developed our version which costs USD 150," said ELMCH's additional director (administration, research

and development) Zaw Ali Khan. Since the equipment comes with a camera, senior doctors and junior students are able to see exactly where the oxygen pipe is going inside the patient's body.

"The process is a difficult one which is performed by experts since there are chances that oxygen pipe moves inside food pipe instead of windpipe, putting patients at risk," said Zaw.

"Our device, however, gives ease of visibility to doctors and in emergency situations such as when junior doctors are inside the ward and there is no time to wear PPE. The equipment can be guided through from outside the ward, through a monitor, which gives a clear image to senior doctors outside," he added.