

USEFULNESS OF AN ENDOSCOPE WEIGHT-REDUCING AID (ENDOSCOPE-SUSPENDING DEVICE) DURING GASTROSCOPY AND COLONOSCOPY

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INTRODUCTION

In recent years, as the diagnostic/therapeutic endoscopic procedures continue to increase in numbers, the left-arm/-shoulder burden continues to increase for the endoscopists performing these procedures, resulting in their overuse injuries (upper extremity biomechanical overload).

AIMS & METHODS

To help relieve the biomechanical overload associated with endoscopic procedures. Following installment of an infusion rail (1), an infusion runner system (2) and an infusion stand (3) from the ceiling, a highly retractable Teflon tube (4) was connected to the infusion stand with its lower end (5) clipped to an endoscope, so that the endoscope could be left hanging from the system. With this endoscope weight-reducing aid (endoscopesuspending device), the infusion rail and the Teflon tube gave greater freedom to endoscopist movement during endoscopy. The endoscopes available at the clinic (GIF-XP260, GIF-Q260, PCF-Q240ZI, and CF-H260AZI; Olympus Inc) were compared, in a diagnostic setting, with the endoscope connectors attached to each system, for weight as well as for force exerted on each device. with or without the weight-reducing aid (endoscope-suspending device).

RESULTS

The weight of each device with/without the weightreducing aid (endoscope-suspending device) was 0.26 kgf/0.52 kgf (0.5) for GIF-XP260, 0.34 kgf/0.61 kgf (0.56) for GIF-Q260, 0.21 kgf/0.61 kgf (0.34) for PCF-Q240ZI, and 0.22 kgf/0.7 kgf [0.31) for CF-H260AZI, respectively. The force exerted on each device with/without the weight-reducing aid (endoscope-suspending device) was **2.5** Newton (N)/5.0 N (0.5) for GIF-XP260, 3.3 N/6.0 N (0.55) for GIF-Q260, 2.1 N/6.0 N (0.35) for PCF-Q240ZI, and **2.2** N/6.9 N (0.32) for CF-H260AZI, respectively.

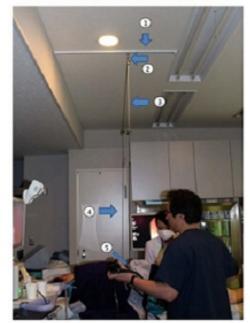
Weight of each endoscope with/without endoscope-suspending device

Endoscope with (+)/without (-) Endoscope-suspending device		Newton	kgf
GIF-XP260	(+)	2.5	0.26
	()	5.0	0.52
GIF-Q260	(+)	3.3	0.34
	()	6.0	0.61
PCF-Q240ZI	(+)	2.1	0.21
	(-)	6.0	0.61
CF-H260AZI	(+)	2.2	0.22
	()	6.9	0.7

CONCLUSION

An endoscope weight-reducing aid (endoscope-suspending device) was developed. Endoscope weight reductions with this aid may not only help decrease the physical burden on the endoscopist performing endoscopic procedures but allow him/her to maintain concentration during prolonged diagnostic/therapeutic procedures, thus leading to better diagnostic yield and clinical outcome.

Colonoscopy using an endoscope-suspending device

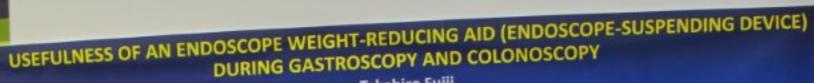


Endoscope-suspending device & its components









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