

7.18 Single-use flexible bronchoscopy with the Boston Scientific® EXALT™ Model B – a single centre experience

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Background: Single-use flexible bronchoscopes (SUFBs) are being utilised at an increasing rate and gained favour during the COVID-19 pandemic as a potential barrier to infection transmission. This study aimed to assess the Boston Scientific® EXALT™ Model's performance in our tertiary care centre.

Methods: After ethical approval, we prospectively collected data on bronchoscopies performed with the Boston Scientific® EXALT™ Model. Data included patient demographics, procedure details (location, indication, SUFB size, procedure, complications), and user satisfaction. **Results:** From 2021 to 2024, 82 procedures were performed with the Exalt bronchoscope. Three endoscopists were included with experience ranging from 1 – 20 years, of these two were right-handed. There were 37 female patients (45%). The 2.8 model was used in 64 (78%) cases while the 2.2 model was used in 19 (23%). Malignancy was the most common indication while others included infection and haemoptysis. Locations included endoscopy (91.5%), ICU (2.4%), and theatre (6.1%). One patient was COVID positive. The most commonly performed procedure (n) was airway inspection (61) while bronchoalveolar lavage (56), brushings (8), endobronchial (18) and transbronchial (3) biopsies, cryobiopsies (2), electrocautery (4), and argon plasma coagulation (8) were among others. The average user satisfaction rating (rated from 1 – 5 in ascending order of satisfaction) was 4.7 [5 (68); 4 (7); 3 (2); 2 (3); 1 (2)]. The most common reason for user dissatisfaction was difficulty passing tools through the working channel (n = 4). No case required conversion from single use to reusable bronchoscope. One case required conversion to a smaller SUFB in order to achieve a smaller angle. Two cases required replacement with another SUFB due to image failure. There were no bronchoscope-related complications. **Conclusion:** Our study has shown a wide range of application, high level of user satisfaction and low rate of complications with the use of this particular SUFB. **Conflict of Interest:** The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.