

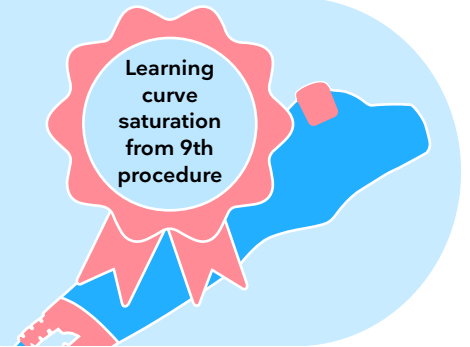


Clinical performance and
COVID-19 management

SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE RELATED TO SINGLE-USE FLEXIBLE BRONCHOSCOPES

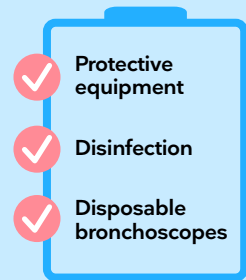
[Flandes et al. \(2020\)](#)

In more than 90% of 300 procedures performed with single-use flexible bronchoscopes, all the pulmonary segments could be reached, and all the planned techniques could be performed, for a general level of satisfaction with the device of 86% and a recommendation for its use in similar cases. The single-use flexible bronchoscope scored well for ease of use, imaging, and aspiration. Further, they found a learning curve with excellent scores from the ninth procedure. Bronchoscopists additionally highlighted its portability, immediacy of use, and the possibility of taking and storing images.



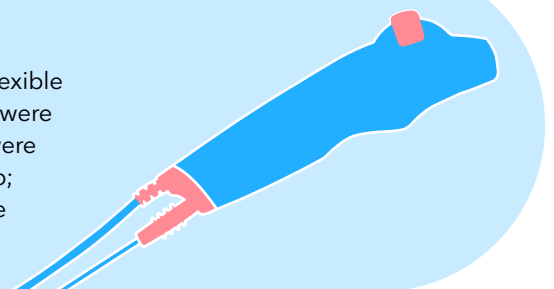
[Piro et al. \(2021\)](#)

The management of patients with COVID-19 is complex, and bronchoscopy may be helpful under some circumstances, such as tracheobronchial obstruction by secretions and the diagnosis of COVID-19-associated pulmonary aspergillosis (CAPA). The increasing number of reports documenting CAPA cases has raised concerns about this superinfection as an additional contributing factor to mortality. Multiple recommendations have been published covering this field, with most of them including protective equipment, disinfection, and the use of disposable bronchoscopes when available.



[Kreige et al. \(2020\)](#)

Physicians prefer aScope 4 Broncho compared to their conventional reusable flexible bronchoscope, both for intubation and bronchoscopy. In total, 175 procedures were performed; 26 of them were bronchoscope-assisted intubations, and the rest were conventional bronchoscopy procedures. 103 (59%) preferred aScope 4 Broncho; 35 (20%) had no preference; and 37 (21%) preferred their conventional reusable flexible bronchoscope. All cases were statistically significant.



[Barron & Kennedy \(2021\)](#)

Bronchoscopy is associated with an increased risk of spread of COVID-19, not only due to being an aerosol-generating procedure but also because of the requirement of cleaning the reusable flexible bronchoscopes. Although no case of patient-to-patient spread of COVID-19 due to bronchoscopy has been reported, reusable flexible bronchoscopes are associated with contamination by human protein, DNA, and harbour infection even after standard cleaning.

