



New findings show that reusable bronchoscopes can be costly in more ways than one

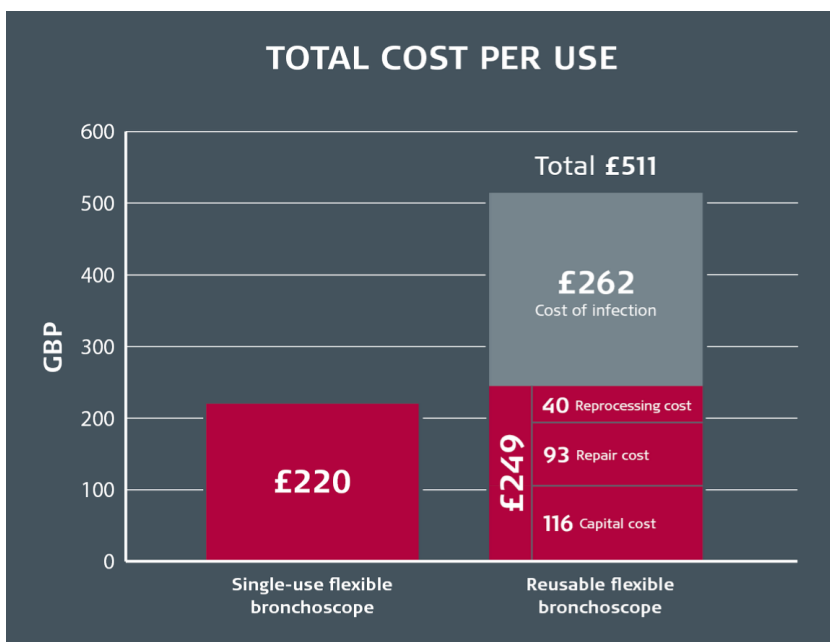
Study puts a price tag on the cost of cross-infection.

A new study conducted at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust Department of Anaesthesia in London has found that single-use flexible bronchoscopes are more cost-effective and associated with a lower risk of infection than reusable flexible bronchoscopes.

The study findings, which were published in *Anaesthesia* on 8th November 2019, fill a gap in the current literature on the economics of reusable flexible bronchoscopes by putting a number on the cost associated with the risk of infection. After quantifying the cost of infection, the study then compares the total costs of reusable flexible bronchoscopes with single-use flexible bronchoscopes using cost data for the Ambu® aScope™ 4 Broncho single-use solution.

The cost of treating infection doubles the cost per procedure

Even without considering the risk of infection, the study found that the direct cost per use of reusable flexible bronchoscopes are greater than that of single-use Ambu aScope 4 Broncho devices. However, when the cost of treatment of infection is taken into account, the total cost per patient use for reusable flexible bronchoscopes more than doubles as the graph below shows.



The results of the study found that when direct cost alone is considered, the cost per procedure for a reusable flexible bronchoscope is £249, compared to £220 with a single-use Ambu aScope 4 Broncho device. However, when the cost of treating infection (£262) is taken into account, the total cost per patient use with a reusable flexible bronchoscope rises to £511. All in all, this means that there is a total cost savings of £291 per procedure to be gained by using the Ambu aScope 4 Broncho single-use solution.



Potential to lower costs and optimize resources with aScope 4 Broncho

The study combined a systematic literature review with a comparative micro-costing analysis conducted at a high-throughput anaesthesia specialist centre at Guy's and St Thomas' hospital in London. The combined data was used to calculate the clinical cost-effectiveness gained from reducing the incidence of cross-infection, which could be achieved using a single-use bronchoscope.

Ambu provided cost data enabling the authors of the study to calculate the cost per procedure with a single-use bronchoscope. The Ambu aScope Broncho solution has been adopted widely by hospitals around the world. Since launching the first aScope in 2009, Ambu aScope technology has been used in over 1.5 million bronchoscopies and intubations.

The study concluded that aScope 4 Broncho single-use scopes offer advantages over reusable ones: *"The findings from the study suggests benefits of single-use flexible bronchoscopes in terms of cost-effectiveness, cross-contamination and resource utilisation."*

With over 2.4 million routine bronchoscopies and intubations performed yearly in intensive care units and operating theatres, the conclusions of the study could point at opportunities to benefit in terms of both resource optimisation and potential cost-savings.

Read more

"A systematic review and cost-effectiveness analysis of re-usable vs single-use flexible bronchoscopes" by Jakob Munk Mouritsen et al. published in Anaesthesia, 8 November 2019: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/anae.14891>

What is the true cost of Bronchoscopy? Visit ambu.com/ascope-4-broncho-guys

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Since 1937, breakthrough ideas have fuelled our work on bringing efficient healthcare solutions to life. This is what we create within our fields of excellence – Visualisation, Anaesthesia, and Patient Monitoring & Diagnostics. Millions of patients and healthcare professionals worldwide depend on the functionality and performance of our products. We are dedicated to improve patient safety and determined to advance single-use devices. The manifestations of our efforts range from early inventions like the Ambu Bag™ resuscitator and the legendary BlueSensor™ electrodes to our newest landmark solutions like the Ambu@aScope™ – the world's first single-use flexible endoscope. Our commitment to bringing new ideas and superior service to our customers has made Ambu one of the most recognized medtech companies in the world. Headquartered near Copenhagen in Denmark, Ambu employs approximately 3,000 people in Europe, North America and the Asia Pacific. For more information, please visit www.ambu.com.