■ **Suxamethonium chloride appears to provide better intubating conditions than rapacuronium bromide,** reports a multinational group of researchers. In this study, 600 patients undergoing surgery under general anaesthesia were randomised to receive suxamethonium chloride [succinylcholine] 1 mg/kg or rapacuronium bromide 2 or 2.5 mg/kg.* Among 538 evaluable patients, intubating conditions were classified as excellent or good in 91.8, 84.1 and 87.6% of patients receiving suxamethonium chloride and rapacuronium bromide 2 and 2.5 mg/kg, respectively. Among the 109 patients requiring rapid-sequence induction, intubating conditions were classified as excellent or good in 88.9, 82.4 and 84.6% of patients in the respective treatment groups. The researchers conclude that *'it could not be demonstrated that the two doses of rapacuronium were not inferior to succinylcholine'*.

* This study was supported by Organon Teknika BV, Boxtel, The Netherlands.

Blobner M, et al. Rapacuronium 2.0 or 2.5 mg kg-1 for rapid-sequence induction: comparison with succinylcholine 1.0 mg kg-1. British Journal of Anaesthesia 85: 724-731, Nov 2000 800853397