

Single Use or Disposable Flexible Bronchoscopy in Advanced Bronchoscopy Procedures: Experience in a Quaternary Referral Centre

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Introduction & Methods



Image 1:
The Surgical Company
Broncoflex SUFB

The development of disposable or single use flexible bronchoscopes (SUFBs) has accelerated in recent years, with the reduced risk of infectious transmission and reduced need for endoscopy staffing advantageous in the COVID-19 era.

The object of this study was to assess the performance of a novel single use bronchoscope in an academic quaternary referral centre with an on-site interventional pulmonology programme.

With ethical approval in a quaternary referral centre, we prospectively collected data on sequential bronchoscopy procedures using The Surgical Company Broncoflex© range of SUFBs. Data collected included demographics, procedural data, bronchoscope performance, user satisfaction and complication parameters.

COI: Dr. M Kennedy has received speaker fees and equipment for training from The Surgical Company.

Results

139 endoscopic examinations as well as a range of technical procedures (Figure 1) were performed by five pulmonology faculty from January to July 2021. The majority were carried out for infection (45%) and malignancy (32%) (Figure 2). 8% were COVID-19 positive or suspected. Most were performed in the endoscopy unit (Figure 3). Most procedures reported the highest score in satisfaction (83%) with complications related to equipment reported in 15% (predominantly related to scope suction or inadequate image quality) (Figures 4&5). Reversion to a reusable bronchoscope occurred in 3% of procedures.

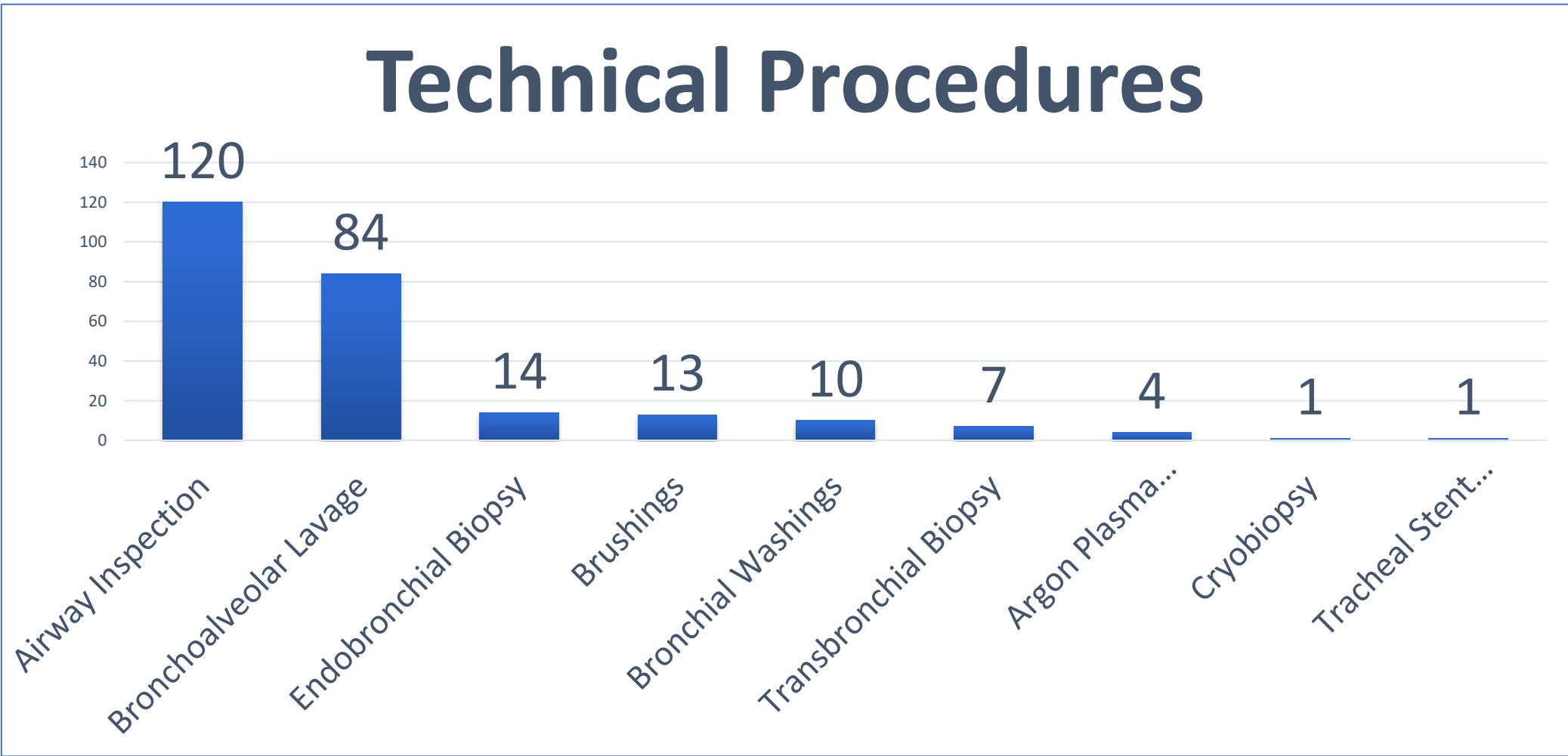


Figure 1: Technical Procedures carried out

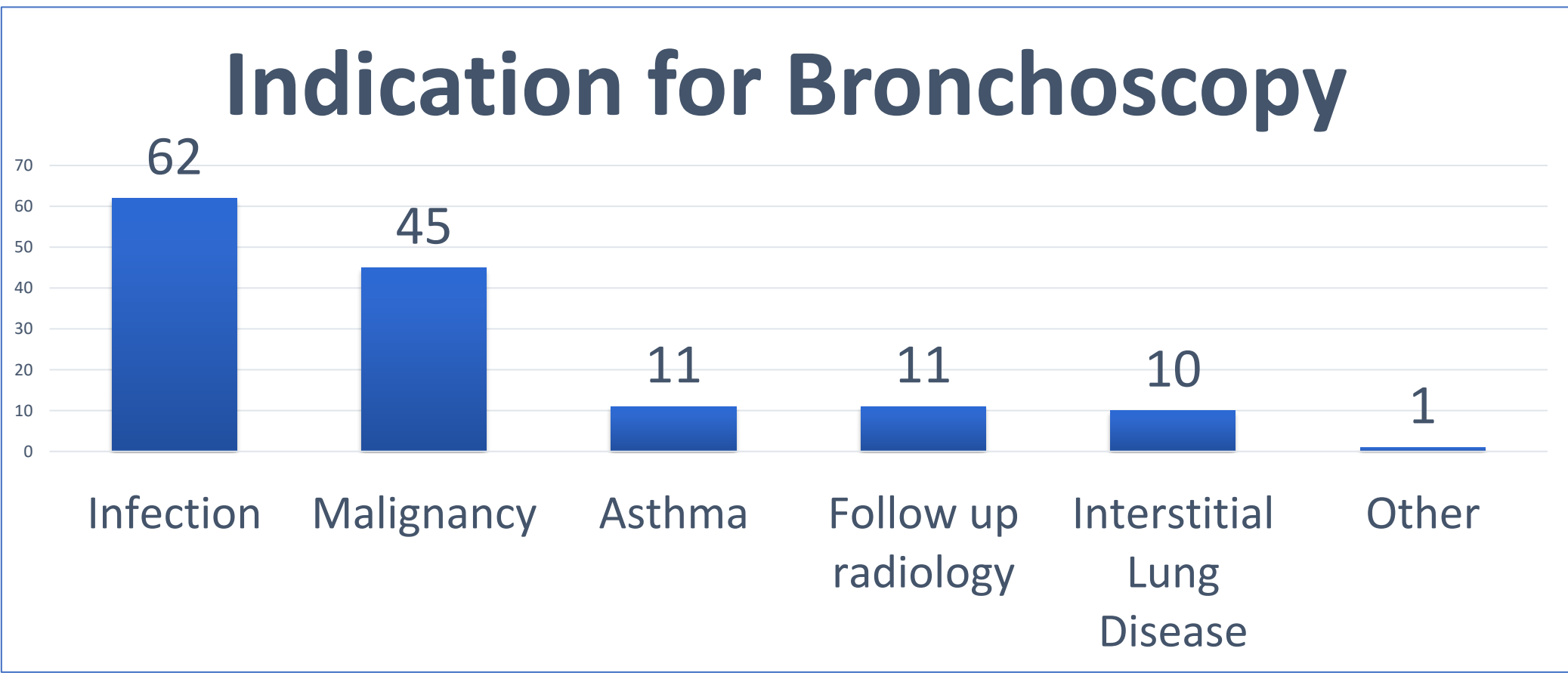


Figure 2: Indications

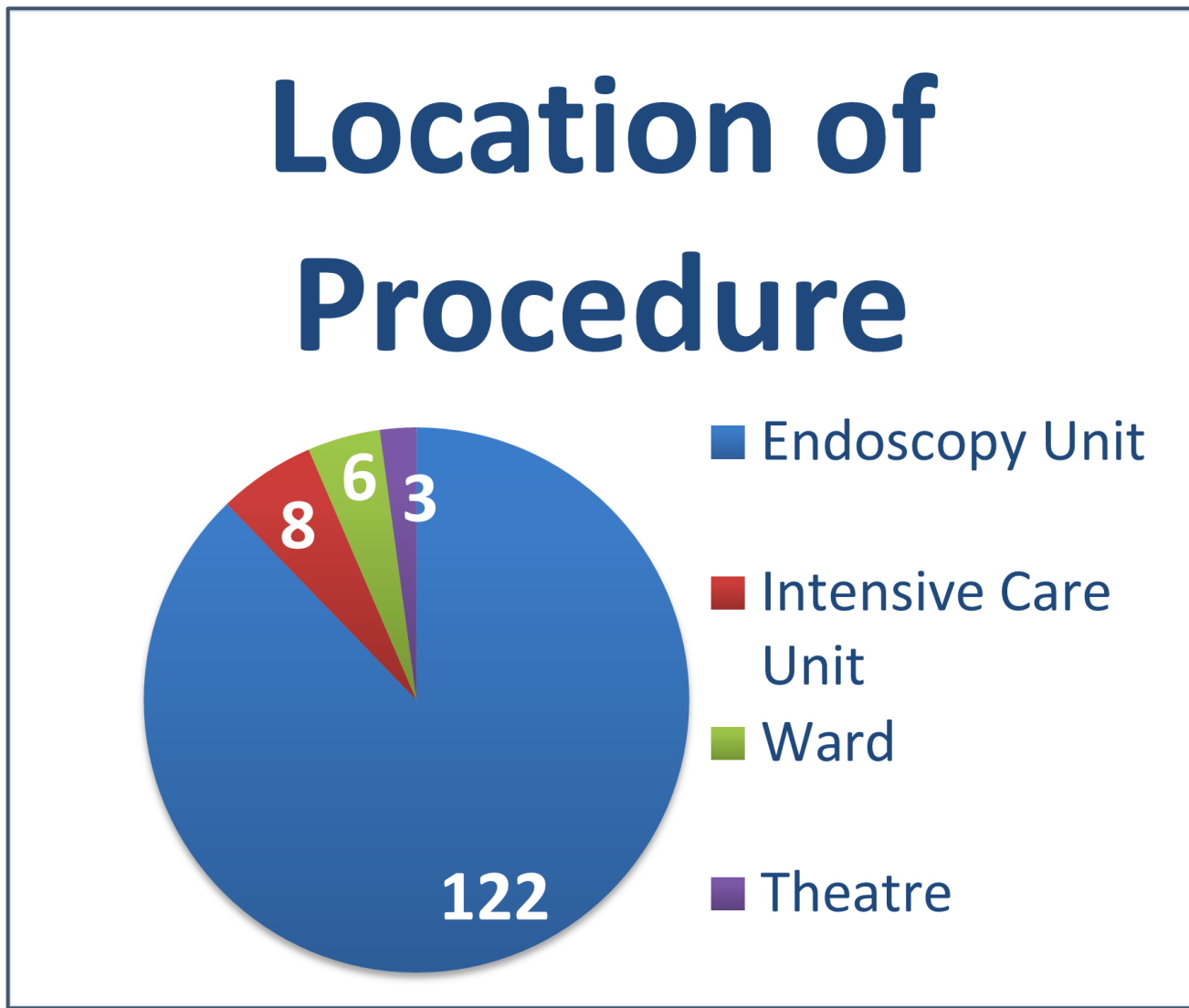


Figure 3: Location

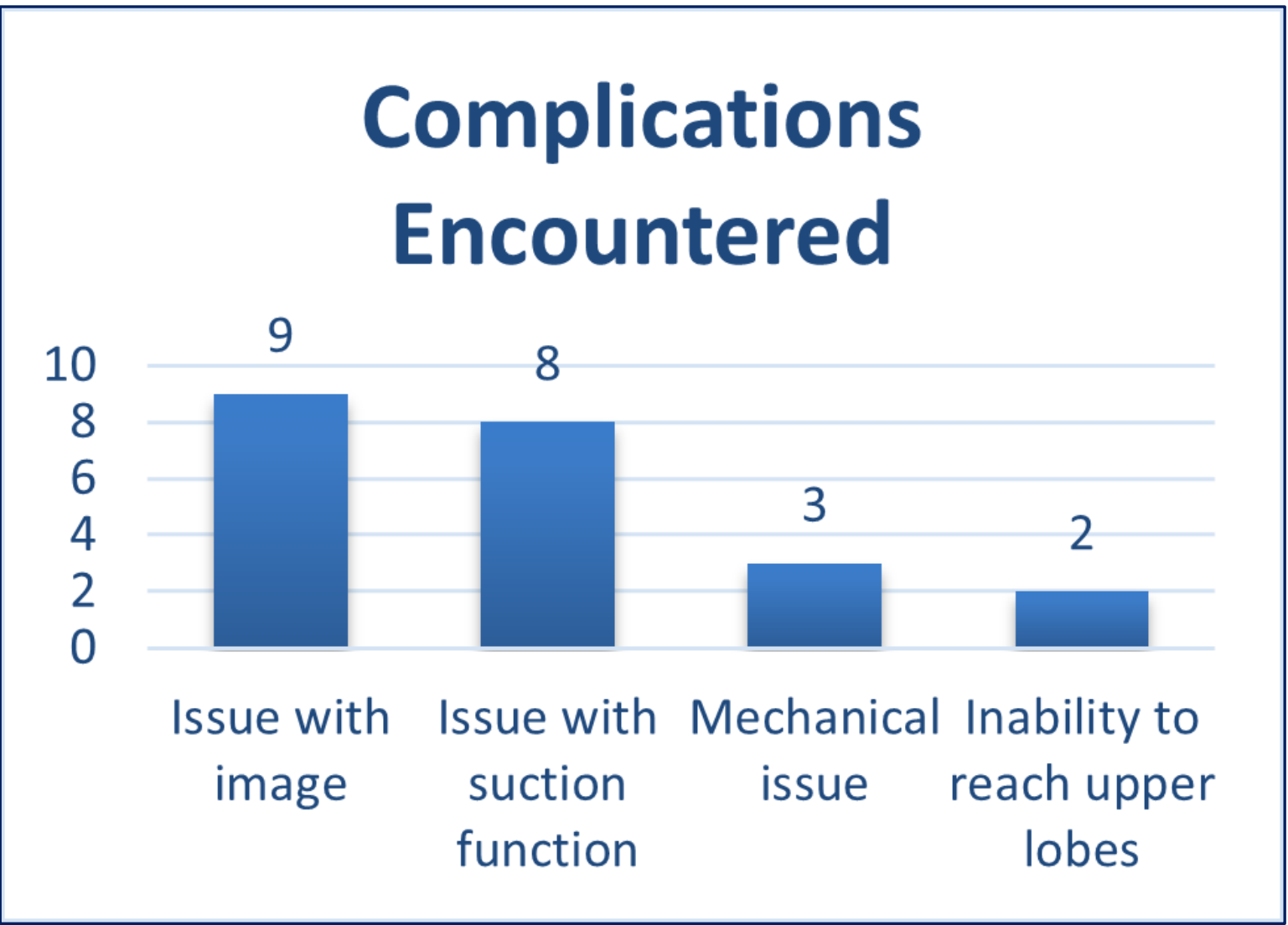


Figure 4: Types of Complications

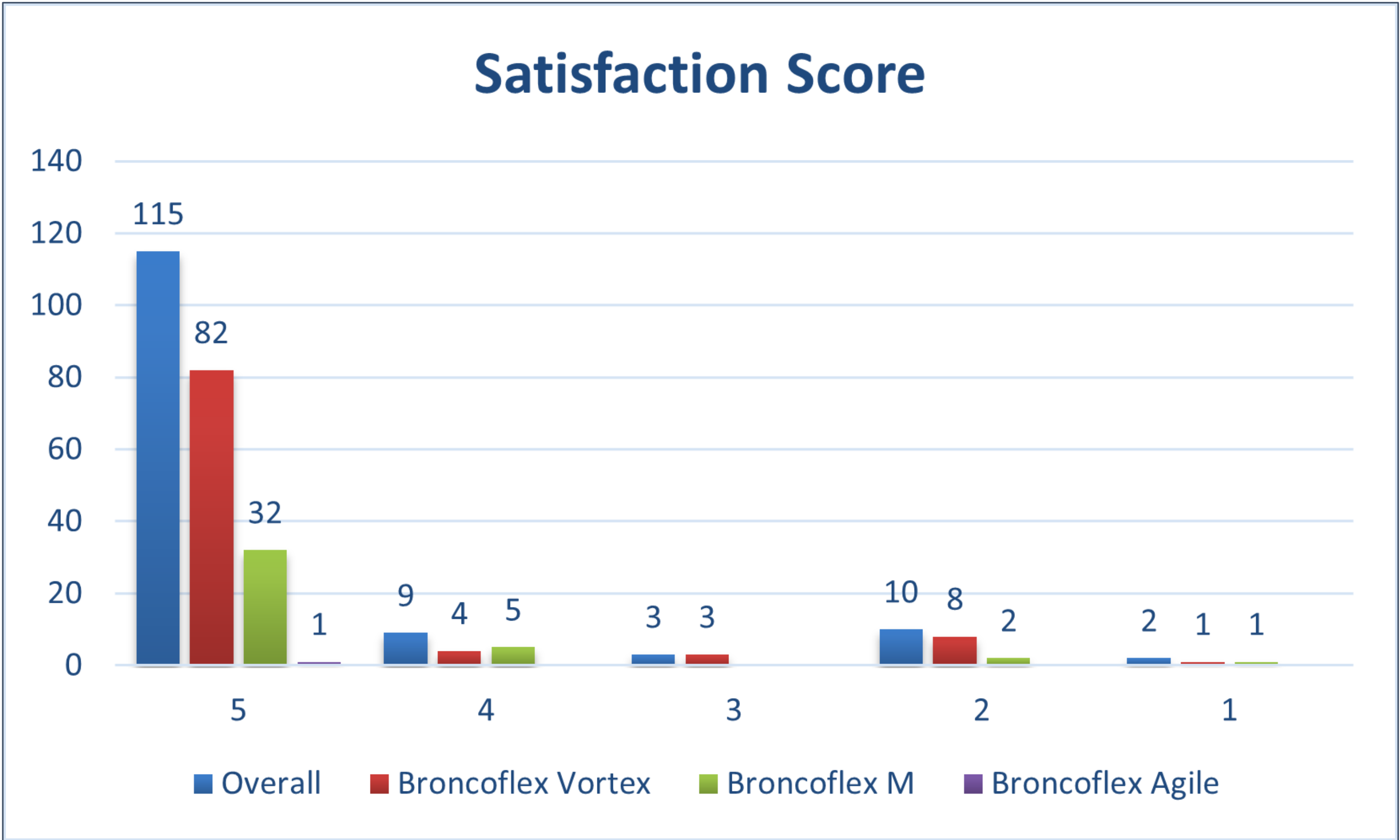


Figure 5: User Satisfaction Score (Graded 1-5)

Conclusion:

In our subset of patients in a bronchoscopy unit, single use flexible bronchoscopes are safe; and both routine and advanced bronchoscopy procedures can be performed with high satisfaction reported.