

A blurred photograph of medical professionals in blue scrubs performing a procedure on a mannequin. One person is using a green-handled device on the mannequin's airway. The background is a clinical setting.

Edited by
Andrew Burtenshaw
Jonathan Benger
Jerry Nolan

Emergency Airway Management

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Medicine

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Second Edition

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Foreword

When the first edition of this book was published in 2008 it heralded a new approach to the way in which management of the airway in emergency situations was taught. The emphasis was placed firmly on competency rather than speciality. Both the book and the course it accompanies have achieved considerable success, delivering a didactic yet pragmatic approach to the management of the compromised airway.

As ever competence can only be achieved through both the acquisition of knowledge and practical skills and can only be maintained through regular practice and experiential learning. This book is a companion to these endeavours but not a substitute.

The essence of safe airway management is the decision-making process that achieves safety with effectiveness, thereby minimizing iatrogenic error whilst attaining airway security and optimizing ventilation and oxygenation.

The book lays the foundations for achieving these competencies with clear and concise descriptions of the anatomy, physiology and pharmacology of emergency airway management. This is complemented by discussions on the detailed management of some commonly encountered clinical scenarios.

The book has been extensively updated and revised since the first edition and now contains a new chapter examining the importance and influence of non-technical human factors. The introduction of and more widespread use of videolaryngoscopy is reflected by a description and discussion of its role as an aid to airway management. Also of major significance is the fact that the book now reflects the findings and conclusions of the National Audit of Major Airway Complications in the UK published in 2011 (NAP4).

The book should be an essential accompaniment to any trainee involved in the acute care of the patient with a potentially compromised airway including anaesthetists, emergency physicians and acute physicians in a variety of environments from pre-hospital care through to the emergency department, operating room and critical care unit.

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Note

This book and the course it accompanies have been prepared by a group of clinicians from the specialties of anaesthesia, intensive care and emergency medicine.

The UK TEAM Course, this manual and all course materials are the intellectual property of these individuals, who are listed in the contributor list. However, the course has been developed and refined by the group as a whole, through a process of ongoing discussion and collaboration.

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This manual has been edited by Andrew Burtenshaw, Jonathan Benger and Jerry Nolan, to whom all comments should be addressed.

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Abbreviations

ABCD Airway, breathing, circulation and disability	HAFOE High-airflow oxygen enrichment
ANTS Anaesthetic non-technical skills	HME Heat and moisture exchanger
APL Adjustable pressure limiting (valve)	ICNARC Intensive Care National Audit And Research Centre
ARDS Acute respiratory distress syndrome	ICP Intracranial pressure
ATLS Advanced trauma life support	ICU Intensive care unit
BMI Body mass index	ILMA Intubating laryngeal mask airway
BMV Bag-mask ventilation	IOP Intraocular pressure
BTS British Thoracic Society	IPAP Inspiratory positive airway pressure
BURP Backwards, upwards, rightwards pressure	IPPV Intermittent positive pressure ventilation
CICO Can't intubate, can't oxygenate	LED Light-emitting diode
CMV Continuous mandatory ventilation	LMA Laryngeal mask airway
CO₂ Carbon dioxide	MAP Mean arterial pressure
COPD Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	MET Medical emergency team
CPAP Continuous positive airway pressure	MMC Modernizing medical careers
CPP Cerebral perfusion pressure	MV Minute volume
CPR Cardiopulmonary resuscitation	NAP4 Fourth National Audit Project of the Royal College of Anaesthetists and the Intensive Care Society
CSI Cervical spine injury	NEAR National Emergency Airway Registry
CT Computed tomography	NIBP Non-invasive blood pressure
ECG Electrocardiograph	NICE National Institute for Health and Care Excellence
ED Emergency department	NIPPV Non-invasive positive pressure ventilation
ENT Ear, nose and throat	NIV Non-invasive ventilation
EPAP Expiratory positive airway pressure	NMJ Neuromuscular junction
E_TCO₂ End tidal carbon dioxide	NTSP National Tracheostomy Safety Project
FEV₁ Forced expiratory volume over one second	O₂ Oxygen
FG French gauge	P_ACO₂ Partial pressure of carbon dioxide (alveolar)
FGF Fresh gas flow	P_AO₂ Partial pressure of oxygen (alveolar)
F_iO₂ Inspired oxygen concentration	
FRC Functional residual capacity	
GABA Gamma-amino butyric acid	
GCS Glasgow Coma Scale	

P_aCO₂ Partial pressure of carbon dioxide (arterial)

P_aO₂ Partial pressure of oxygen (arterial)

PEEP Positive end expiratory pressure

PICU Paediatric intensive care unit

PLMA ProSeal laryngeal mask airway

P_{max} Peak (maximum) inspiratory pressure

PO₂ Partial pressure of oxygen

Q̇ Perfusion

RR Respiratory rate

RSI Rapid sequence induction (of anaesthesia)

SAD Supraglottic airway device

SBAR Situation, Background, Assessment, Recommendation

SIGN Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network

SIMV Synchronized intermittent mandatory ventilation

S_aO₂ Oxygen saturation (arterial)

S_pO₂ Oxygen saturation by pulse oximetry

TBI Traumatic brain injury

TRM Team resource management

Ṁ Ventilation

Ṁ/Ṁ Ventilation/Perfusion ratio

VALI Ventilator associated lung injury

V_T Tidal volume