

The Airway Carnival: Intubating LMA

Description:

The Intubating LMA has a rigid silicone-coated, anatomically curved steel airway tube, which closely follows the curvature of the palate and posterior pharynx. The distal end features an epiglottis-elevating bar to lift the epiglottis and allow passage of a tracheal tube or fiberoptic laryngoscope.

Indications:

- Guide for endotracheal intubation
- Unanticipated difficult intubations
- Failed intubation
- Intubation of patients with limited head/neck movement

Contraindications:

- Lack of skill
- Non-fasted patient

Advantages:

- Portable, relatively inexpensive
- Large internal diameter to accommodate up to a size 8.0 ETT
- Allows ventilation/oxygenation throughout intubation attempts
- Rigid handle eliminates need to place fingers in the mouth and allows for manipulation of the device

Disadvantages:

- Blind technique, potential trauma if not performed carefully
- Requires mouth opening of at least 3cm

Special Features:

- Allows intubation/ventilation in any patient position
- May be re-inserted after intubation to facilitate extubation

Tips for Success:

- Achieve optimal ventilation (without leak) prior to intubation attempts
- Manipulate the handle and lift prior to intubation ("Chandy's maneuver")
- Utilize fiberoptic scope to visualize passage in very abnormal airways
- Use proper size

Currently available devices:

For additional information contact LMA North America, Inc. at www.lmana.com

References:

1. Brain AIJ, Verghese C, Addy EV, Kapila A. "The Intubating Laryngeal Mask-I. Development of a New Device for Intubating the Trachea." Brit J Anaesth 79:699, 1997.
2. Baskett PJF, Parr MJA, Nolan JP.. "The Intubating Laryngeal Mask. Results of a Multicentre Trial with Experience of 500 Cases." Anaesthesia 53:1174, 1998.
3. Dhar P, Osborn I, Brimacombe J, et al. "Blind Orotracheal Intubation with the Intubating Laryngeal Mask vs. Fiberoptic Guided Orotracheal Intubation with the Ovassapian Airway. A Pilot Study of Awake Patients." Anesth Intensive Care 29:252, 2001.