AIRWAY MANAGEMENT

Rev. 1.1

HIGHLIGHTS

► INTEGRATED COMPETENCIES FOR EVERY PHASE/STEP
► AIRBORNE PROTECTION FOR EVERY PHASE/STEP IN CRITICAL CARE SETTINGS (IF POSSIBLE)
► ANTICIPATE NEEDS, MAXIMIZE FIRST-PASS SUCCESS

DOUBLE-CHECK INDICATIONS FOR ENDOTRACHEAL INTUBATION

► Adopt Early Warning Scores for intubation/quid vitam prognosis (consider DNR cases)
► Identify Isolated room/negative pressure environment if possible
► Balance benefits of CPAP/BiPAP/NIV/HFNO versus risks of airborne diffusion
► IF INTUBATION is required, prefer ELECTIVE procedure (in emergency > patient risk)

TEAM PREPARATION

► Minimize the number of team members:
  - The most expert team member should perform the intubation and advanced airway control/ventilation (with donned PPE) [INSIDE the chamber]
  - EXPERT assistant on protocols and devices (doctor/nurse with donned PPE) [INSIDE the chamber]
  - Second doctor with donned PPE if complex maneuver/difficult airway is expected/planned [INSIDE the chamber]
  - Doctor available with donned PPE [OUTSIDE the chamber]
  - PPE donning/Doftting Observer [OUTSIDE]

CARRY OUT PRELIMINARY BRIEFING FOR ROLE DEFINITION, STRATEGY DEFINITION, IDENTIFICATION OF DONNING/DOFFING OBSERVER

PPE DONNING

► Second level PPE recommended for airway management including aerosol-generating procedures i.e. bronchoscopy, awake endotracheal intubation) hair covers/hoods, FFP2/N95 mask, gogglers or face shield, long sleeve fluid-resistant gown, double gloves, overshoes
► Third level PPE (suggested for selected cases of aerosol-generating procedures) Helmet, FFP3 mask, face shield, gogglers, long sleeve fluid-resistant gown, double gloves, overshoes

DONNING/DOFFING OBSERVER EXTERNALLY CHECKING, INDIVIDUAL DONNING

CLINICAL CHECKLIST (wearing PPE)

► COMPLETE EVALUATION OF AIRWAYS AND OXYGENATION (accept difficult airway management risk overestimation)
► HEMODYNAMIC EVALUATION ◆ PRE-EMPTIVE HEMODYNAMIC OPTIMIZATION

AIRWAY INSTRUMENTATION

► HEPA FILTER ON EVERY OXYGENATION INTERFACE (face mask, circuit, endotracheal tube, supraglottic airway devices, introducer, airway exchange catheters, respiratory circuit)
► AIRWAY CART READY (DISPOSABLE devices preferable)
► SUCTION: CLOSED SYSTEM
► ANTIFOGGING
► MEDICATIONS: PREPARED AND DOUBLE-CHECKED
► EMERGENCY CART READY (DISPOSABLE devices preferable)

AWAKE INTUBATION NOT INDICATED:

► PREOXYGENATION (according to respiratory and hemodynamic status)
  - 3min at TV FiO2=100% or 1min at FVC 8 breaths FiO2=100% or CPAP/PSV 10 cmH2O + PEEP 5 cmH2O FiO2=100%
  - RSI in all patients (limit BMV unless unavoidable and apply Cricoid Pressure only in case of ongoing regurgilation)
  - NASAL PRONGS 1-3 (min FiO2=100% for APNOIC PHASE (NODESAT)

► FULL DOSE NEUROMUSCULAR BLOCK RESPECT onset time for laryngoscopy
  - 1 LARYNGOSCOPY:
    - prefer VIDEOLARYNGOSCOPE with separate screen ◆ endotracheal tube pre-loaded on introducer
    - Re-oxygenate with low TV/pressure between attempts -Early switch (after failed second attempt) to supraglottic airway devices ◆ prefer second generation - intubable SADs
  - INTUBATION THROUGH SUPRAGLOTTIC AIRWAY DEVICES: flexible endoscope with separate screen (prefer DISPOSABLE)

► EARLY CRICOTHYROTOMY IF CI-CO

AWAKE INTUBATION INDICATED (only if really mandatory):

► AIRWAY TOPICALIZATION: no aerosol/vaporization
► TITRATED SEDATION (INFEUSION PUMP) - sedation depth monitoring
► FLEXIBLE ENDOSCOPE WITH SEPARATE SCREEN (PREFER DISPOSABLE)
► RESCUE: INTUBATION THROUGH SUPRAGLOTTIC AIRWAY DEVICES (see above)
► EARLY CRICOTHYROTOMY IF CI-CO

One of the most critical issues regarding 2019 nCoV patients is the transition phase between initial symptoms and potentially severe evolution requiring critical care, while taking into account the comorbidities. The choice of supplementary oxygen delivery interface and the decision to provide invasive ventilatory support is crucial. These decisions have the potential of impacting outcome and may lead to consequences on saturation of critical care beds. Non-invasive support methods (CPAP, BiPAP, NIV, HFNO) might correct hypoxemia and counterbalance respiratory failure (though univocal data are missing) and may either delay or avoid endotracheal intubation (with potential complications and effects on outcome). Nevertheless, data from the SARS epidemic provide evidence showing that these ventilatory techniques might favor the risk of airborne viral spreading. Given the nature of nCoV 19 in terms of contagiousness, should the patient require, or be expected to necessitate invasive ventilator support, an elective endotracheal intubation should be preferred or even anticipated, rather than waiting for an emergency procedure in the precipitating patient) as to minimize complications of intubation itself and also to reduce both the risks of procedural errors and the contamination of healthcare providers.

Avoidance of early warning scores (EWS), shared and predefined strategies, multidisciplinary team training and simulation of possible scenarios are highly recommended, taking also into account the available levels of care and feasibility of critical care levels of assistance in a non-ICU environment. The decisional elements for airway management, oxygenation and invasive ventilator support thus include competencies and organization and available human and environmental resources.

Vigilance in prevention, strict adhesion of donning/doffing of PPE, preparedness for the care of infected patients remain priority and of utmost importance.

TUBE POSITION CONTROL - PROTECTIVE VENTILATION

► CAPNOGRAPHIC CURVES repeated and with standard morphology (if in doubt take it out)
► AVOID unsafe circuit disconnections (if needed: ventilator on stand-by/clamp endotracheal tube)
► CONSIDER indications for advanced techniques: ECMO - experts advise

PPE DOFFING

► During and after PPE doffing, hands hygiene mandatory
► Donning/doffing observer externally checking, individual doffing
► Waste disposal

TRANSPORT

► Follow bio-containment regulations

Reference


PPE: N95 mask, gloves, long sleeve gowns, eye protection, shoe covers.

**COVID-19**

**MANAGEMENT**

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- **ANTICIPATE NEEDS, MAXIMIZE FIRST-PASS SUCCESS**

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