



Competencies on Anaesthesia & Surgery to underpin airway management

PACU Airway Learning and Teaching Resource

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Competencies : Anaesthesia & Surgery

Core clinical learning outcomes:

- *Understands the multiple applications of anaesthesia and their use in practice*
- *Understands the stages of general anaesthesia and their impact on airway patency*
- *Rationalises the ongoing risk to airway patency in the post anaesthetic care unit caused by the residual effect of general anaesthesia*
- *Explains how surgery on the head and neck can lead to airway complications*

Content Knowledge & skills	A. Uses of anaesthesia in surgery • <i>Enables the novice to understand the process of anaesthesia and its different applications in surgery</i>
1.	Explains the term 'anaesthesia'
2.	Describes the following applications of anaesthesia and their use for different surgical operations: - general anesthesia - neuroaxial blockade - regional anaesthesia - local anaesthesia - sedation
	B. Induction of General Anaesthesia [GA] • <i>Enables the trainee to understand the process of induction and why it puts the airway at risk</i> • <i>Enables the trainee to understand how the anaesthetist protects the airway during anaesthesia</i>
3.	Explains the process of induction and its techniques

4.	Rationalises why the airway is at risk from the point of induction
5.	Discusses the use of the following drugs/agents used in induction : Propofol, Thiopentone, Fentanyl, Suxamethonium, Isoflurane
6.	Explains the process of intubation of the trachea identifying the equipment needed
7.	Explains the process of inserting the laryngeal mask airway identifying the equipment used
8.	Compares and contrasts the use of endo-tracheal tube and laryngeal mask airway
9.	Rationalises the anaesthetic choice of supra-glottic device or endo tracheal tube to maintain airway on induction
	C. Maintenance of General Anaesthesia Enables the trainee to understand how the airway is kept safe during general anaesthesia
10.	Explains what is meant by 'maintenance of anaesthesia'
11.	Describes the drugs used to maintain anaesthesia [Triad of Anaesthesia]
12.	Identifies how the patient is monitored to ensure airway is kept patent during surgery
	D. Reversal of General Anaesthesia Enables the novice to understand how general anaesthesia is reversed
13.	Explains how general anaesthesia is reversed

14.	Explains the use of Neostigmine at the reversal stage
15.	Understands the use of Doxepam, Naloxone, Flumazenil as reversal agents
16.	Describes how to recognize that the patient is regaining consciousness
17.	Identifies how to recognize that the patient has control over his airway
	<i>E. Residual effect of drugs and techniques used in General Anaesthesia on the airway</i> • <i>Enables the trainee to understand how the residual effects of anaesthesia may put the airway at risk in the immediate post anaesthetic phase</i>
18.	Explains how the use of endo tracheal tube may put the airway at risk in the immediate post anaesthetic phase
19.	Explains how the residual effects of drugs used in to maintain anaesthesia may put the airway at risk in the immediate post anaesthetic phase
	<i>F. Surgical procedures on head and neck</i> • <i>Enables the trainee to understand how certain operations pose a risk to the airway</i> •
20.	Rationalises how surgery to the head and neck may lead to airway obstruction in the immediate post anaesthetic phase with relation to three surgical specialities: - Dental surgery - ENT surgery - Trauma and maxilla-facial surgery