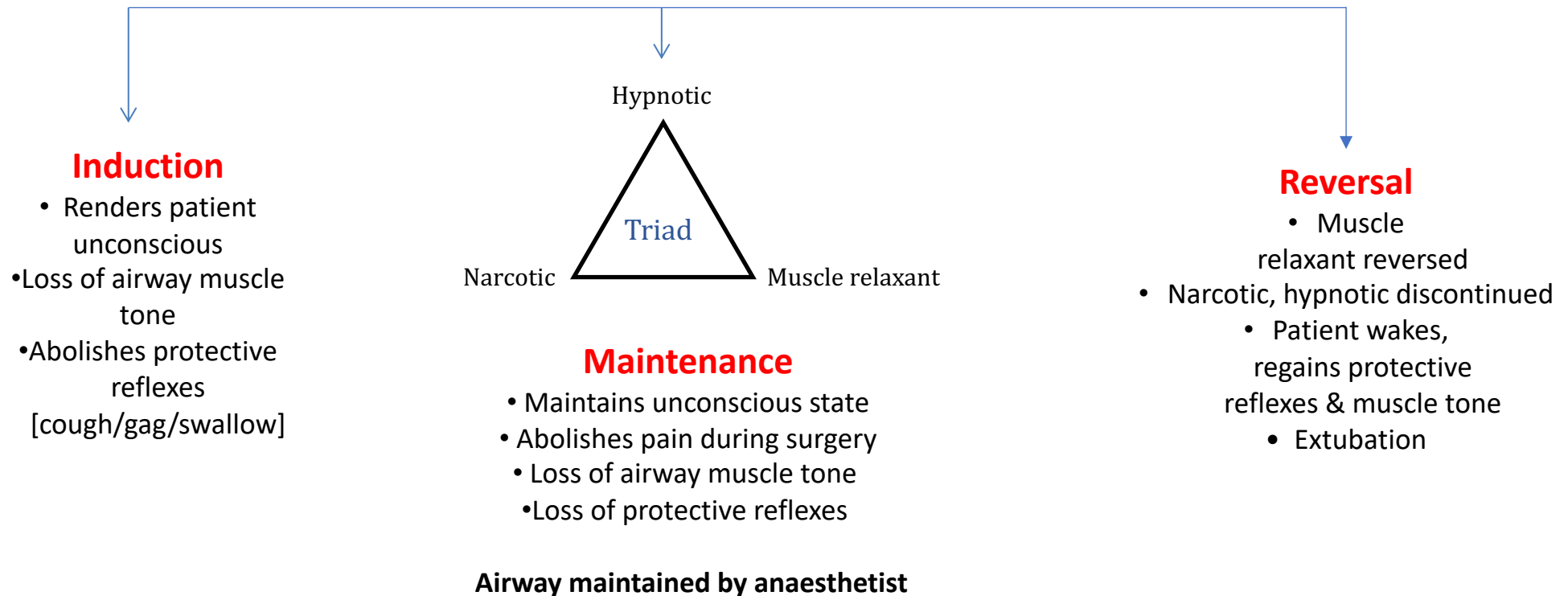


GENERAL ANAESTHESIA DISRUPTS NORMAL AIRWAY FUNCTION

The airway is vulnerable from the point of induction until the patient wakes

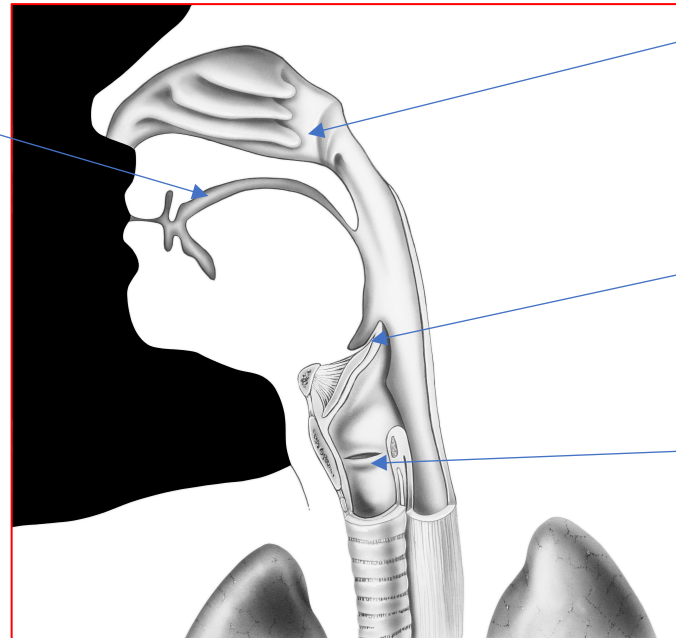
Patient unconscious : airway at risk : surgery performed



RISK POINTS FOR AIRWAY OBSTRUCTION CAUSED BY GENERAL ANAESTHESIA & SURGERY

Oral cavity obstruction

- Tongue
- Foreign body [throat pack]
- Teeth
- Clear secretions
- Surgical bleeding



Bleeding into post-nasal space

- May obstruct oral cavity
- May produce laryngeal swelling

Epiglottal Malfunction

- Leading to aspiration

Laryngospasm

Vocal cords partly closed due to:

- Trauma due to clumsy intubation
- Secretions on cords
- Laryngeal swelling

COMBINATION OF ABOVE FACTORS = AN INCREASED RISK OF OBSTRUCTION IN PACU