

Airway Module – A4(2) Special Airway Challenges: The Difficult Airway [Last updated 29/09/2012]

Scenario template: Can't intubate CA	N'T Ventilate		
Scenario: A4(2) Can't intubate and CAN'T ventilate scenario	Patient: Mickey Rourke Overdose of opiates and alcohol	Simulator: SIMMAN Essentials or similar	
Case Summary:		Participant Briefing:	
Mickey Rourke ,34-year-old with a polypharmacy overdose. There is no		Ambulance Handover	
history of trauma and he is well known to the department for bipolar mental		I – Mickey Rourke, 34 year old man	
health issues. He requires intubation to protect his airway and provide		M – Found at home with multiple pills (?which) and alcohol bottles around	
adequate ventilation. The RSI it turns into a can't intubate CAN'T ventilate		him with decreased GCS, vomit on floor next to him	
situation		I – Polypharmacy overdose	
		S – HR 76, BP 100/60, Sats 95%, RR 18, GCS 3	
1		T – IV cannula in situ	
1		A – Nil known	
ı		M – Anti-depressants (unclear which)	
		B – Known bipolar disorder	
<u> </u>		O – Well known to the service, usually manic episodes prevail	
Clinical Issues		Human factors / Non technical issues	
ABCDE approach to the polypharmacy	y overdose	Situational awareness of Can't intubate, CAN'T ventilate situation –	
The 7 Ps of intubation		unanticipated	
Management of Can't intubate, CAN'T ventilate situation		Communication with team	
ı		Recognition and communication of CICO situation	
Learning Objectives:			

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To Communicate: With the team – role allocation, plan A/B/C, CICO situation

To Conduct: A structured assessment and management of the polypharmacy overdose

To Demonstrate: Knowledge and skills associated with the Can't intubate, CAN'T ventilate algorithm

To Interpret: Signs and symptoms of polypharmacy overdose with a need for intubation for airway protection and to improve ventilation

Faculty Actors:

Mickey Rourke: unresponsive

Faculty Nurse: Experienced ED nurse. Will support the team as needed during the scenario. Subtle prompting may be needed and you should act as a member of the team rather than an instructor.

Patient Moulage:

No specific mannequin moulage is needed. Street clothes, a wig can be used if available











Equipment & Props:

EdWISE Airway box and extras

Difficult airway trolley as per host ED to allow team to review this. If not able to bring into teaching area prompt team to review its contents and location in the immediate perior after the session

Host ED's video laryngoscope, if present and available

Monitor: ED setup	Investigations:	
ECG	VBG/ABG results – laminated x2	
SPO2	CXR – normal – laminated x2	
CO2 ready		
NIBP		
Patient presentation	Expected response by participants	Faculty /Actors Notes
Initial Presentation:	Structured team ABCDE approach to the patient (DEFG)	Mickey Rourke: GCS 3, eyes closed, unresponsive
Rhythm – Sinus	Recognition of airway risk	Faculty Nurse: Support the team through a structured approach to the
HR – 76/min	Maintain oxygenation	unwell ED patient. If a test is ordered then hand the team the
BP - 100/45	Give fluids to support cardiovascular system	appropriate laminated sheet. If they order another test then tell them
RR – 10/min	Take blood tests/urine for toxicology screen	that it will be ordered. If they ask for equipment then you can either
SPO2 – 98% on non-rebreathing mask	(including paracetamol +/- salicylates) Assign team roles	get it for them, show them where it is or say that it is being used or fixed. Please "take" the blood. The cannulas will already be in the
Temp – 36.3 (if asked for)	Communicate need for airway support	mannequin. It would maintain fidelity if you were to take the blood so
Conscious level – GCS 3	Call for help	that the team did not have to pretend to do this.
ETCO ₂ – 52 (if attached)		If a BSL is asked for at anytime please pretend to measure it and then make up a normal value for it.
		VBG+/- ABG1









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Progression: The observations change to these values over the first 5 mins of the scenario.

Rhythm – Sinus

HR - 90/min

BP - 94/45

RR - 6/min

SPO2 – 99% on non-rebreathing mask

Temp - 36.3 (if asked for)

Conscious level - GCS 3

ETCO₂ – 65 (if attached)

Recognise the deterioration in the patient Communicate this deterioration with the team

Prepare for intubation of the patient – equipment, role allocation, other.

Plan A/B/C

Call for senior help

Faculty Nurse: Continue to support the team as needed in the scenario. If the deterioration in the patient is not noticed within 5 minutes of the scenario starting then please use subtle prompting of the team — "His blood pressure has dropped a little", " it looks like his respiratory rate has dropped".

Over the phone help: All help over the phone is as helpful as possible over the phone. If physical presence is required then you will be there ASAP but it will take you at least 30 min to arrive. If toxicology centre contact provide useful information and prompt to intubate patient

ABG 2

Deterioration: On administering the RSI drugs, change the obs to these values over 60 seconds. The mannequin should be in the can't intubate, CAN'T ventilate setting!

Rhythm - Sinus

HR – 110/min (dropping to 55/min over 5 minutes)

BP - 110/65

RR - 0/min

SPO2 – 99% until the mask is removed to attempt intubation. After this time decrease the sats. If nasal prongs are used drop the sats over 5 minutes to 55%. If nasal prongs are not used then drop the sats to 55% over 3 minutes.

Temp - 36.3 (if asked for)

ETCO₂ – as unable to ventilate will have no reading, once airway obtained 70

Finish preparing for RSI Allocate roles and check doses of drugs, etc. Recognise and communicate a can't

intubate situation

Attempt reposition and Plan B Recognise a can't intubate, CAN'T ventilate situation

Progress down plan B then plan C
Communicate with the team about the
situation and the change from plan A-B-C
Call for help (ICU/anaesthetics/senior/ENT)

Faculty Nurse: Support the team as needed. If the airway team or the team leader becomes fixated with intubation then you may need to prompt the team to switch to another plan — "His saturations are falling!"; "It doesn't look like you are getting much air in there, his chest isn't moving"; "Do you want me to try and get you some more help?"; "This isn't working, we should try something else!"

Host site faculty: If the team is really struggling or you think that this scenario may be on the border of the team's experience, then it may be useful to have a senior available to help the team. This can be another ED specialist that can be called directly to help or it can be one of the faculty present in the room.









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Recovery: Mickey begins to recover with a successful needle or surgical cricothyroidotomy, with associated oxygenation/ventilation. Once successful placement is achieved the observations change to these values over 2 minutes

approach
Order a CXR
Repeat an ABG

Reassess the patient in a team based ABCDE

Repeat an ABG
Communicate success with team
Discuss disposition with ICU/senior
Chase blood results

Faculty Nurse: As above

ABG 3 (S if a surgical airway is achieved, N if a needle airway is

achieved)

Host site faculty: As above

Rhythm – Sinus

HR - 85/min

BP - 130/65

RR – 0/min (whatever rate the team

ventilates at)

SPO2 - 95%

Temp – 36.3 (if asked for)

Conscious level - GCS 3

ETCO₂ – 50 (if attached)

Debrief Guide

Key clinical issues: Pick a maximum of 2. * are suggested topics

Preparation for an ED Rapid Sequence Intubation

Drugs used for intubation

Can't intubate, CAN'T ventilate algorithm *

Choice of needle Vs surgical airway *

Key non technical issues: Pick a maximum of 2

Communication

Role allocation

Sources of help with their hospital

Situational awareness







EdWISE

EdWISE Scenario

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Initial State

Comatose
Mildly hypercarbic
Starting to deteriorate
further
Unresponsive to
naloxone

Progress

Respiratory rate decreases Increase in hypercarbia Requires intubation for airway protection and adequate ventilation

Deterioration

Can't intubate and CAN'T ventilate situation. Will require a needle or surgical cricothyroidotomy

Recovery

Saturations improve with oxygenation
If a surgical airway then hypercarbia also improves









Venous Blood Gas Result 1

рН	7.32	(7.35-7.45)
pO ₂	81	(80-100 mmHg)
pCO ₂	50	(35-45 mmHg)
HCO₃	19	(20-24 mmoll ⁻¹)
BE	-3	(-2 to +2)
Lac	1.6	(0-2)
Hb	133	
Na⁺	147	
K ⁺	3.7	





Arterial Blood Gas Result 1

7.32	(7.35-7.45)
160	(80-100 mmHg)
50	(35-45 mmHg)
19	(20-24 mmoll ⁻¹)
-3	(-2 to +2)
1.6	(0-2)
133	
147	
3.7	
	160 50 19 -3 1.6 133 147





Arterial Blood Gas Result 2

рН	7.29	(7.35-7.45)
pO ₂	175	(80-100 mmHg)
pCO ₂	64	(35-45 mmHg)
HCO₃	17	(20-24 mmoll ⁻¹)
BE	-4.3	(-2 to +2)
Lac	1.9	(0-2)
Hb	131	
Na [⁺]	142	
K^{+}	3.9	





Arterial Blood Gas Result 3S

рН	7.35	(7.35-7.45)
pO ₂	188	(80-100 mmHg)
pCO ₂	46	(35-45 mmHg)
HCO ₃	20	(20-24 mmoll ⁻¹)
BE	-1.7	(-2 to +2)
Lac	1.2	(0-2)
Hb	137	
Na⁺	140	
K^{\dagger}	3.6	





Arterial Blood Gas Result 3N

рН	7.30	(7.35-7.45)
pO ₂	188	(80-100 mmHg)
pCO ₂	66	(35-45 mmHg)
HCO₃	17	(20-24 mmoll ⁻¹)
BE	-4.7	(-2 to +2)
Lac	2.2	(0-2)
Hb	137	
Na [⁺]	140	
K^{+}	3.6	





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