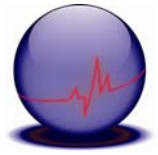




**FAST RESPONSE SCHOOL OF HEALTHCARE EDUCATION**  
**EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN**  
**EMT BASICS: LEARNING SHEET**



**OROPHARYNGEAL AIRWAY INSERTION**

**OBJECTIVE:** Student will demonstrate the ability to correctly measure and insert an oropharyngeal airway.

**EQUIPMENT:**

1. Intubation manikin
2. Oropharyngeal Airways (OPAs) – Various Sizes
3. Tongue Blade

**OPA Adult Technique:**

1.	Takes body substance isolation precautions.
2.	Determines the proper size airway by measuring it against the patient's face from the corner of the mouth to the tip of the ear lobe OR by measuring from the center of the mouth to the angle of the jaw.
3.	Opens the patient's mouth.
4.	Inserts the airway by either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Inserting with the tip towards the hard palate and rotated 180 degrees as the tip passes the soft palate into the pharynx.</li><li>• Inserting sideways and rotated 90 degrees as the tip passes the soft palate into the pharynx</li><li>• Inserting after the tongue is displaced anteriorly with a tongue blade or equivalent device</li></ul>
5.	Inserts the airway so that flange is resting on the lips, gums, or teeth.
6.	Maintains the head in a neutral position if a cervical spine injury is suspected.
7.	Immediately removes the OPA if patient begins gagging.

**OPA Infant/Child Technique:**

1.	Takes body substance isolation precautions.
2.	Determines the proper size airway by measuring it against the patient's face from the corner of the mouth to the tip of the ear lobe OR by measuring from the center of the mouth to the angle of the jaw.
3.	Opens the patient's mouth.
4.	Inserts the tongue blade in the mouth until its tip is at the base of the tongue. Depresses the tongue anteriorly with the tongue blade.
5.	Inserts the airway in its normal anatomic position until the flange is seated on the teeth or lips.
6.	Maintains the head in a neutral position if a cervical spine injury is suspected.
7.	Immediately removes the OPA if patient begins gagging.

**CRITICAL CRITERIA**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Did not take or verbalize BSI</li><li>• Did not properly measure the OPA</li><li>• Did not obtain a patent airway with the OPA</li><li>• Inserted OPA in a manner dangerous to the patient</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Failure to manage patient as a competent EMT</li></ul>
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