

# FOREIGN BODY AIRWAY OBSTRUCTION (FBAO) - ADULT

Airway / Breathing

Circulation / Shock

Cardiac

Medical

Trauma

## UNIVERSAL PATIENT CARE PROTOCOL

Head Tilt / Chin Lift / Jaw Thrust  
Airway Maneuvers

Coughing  
Conscious

Complete Obstruction  
Conscious

Complete Obstruction  
Unconscious

Encourage Patient to Cough

Abdominal Thrusts

Visualize  
Remove Obvious Obstructions

OXYGEN  
10 – 15 L NRB

Open Airway / Rescue  
Breathing

Chest Thrusts / Back Blows

If unable to ventilate, reposition  
head and attempt again

If unable to ventilate,  
continue sequence

Direct Laryngoscopy  
Attempt Removal with  
Magill Forceps

If unable to remove  
obstruction  
**CRICOHYROTOMY**  
NEEDLE, KIT, or SURGICAL  
As provided and trained  
STOP  
Must Have Prior Med  
Control Training / Approval

TRANSPORT to appropriate facility **CONTACT** receiving facility **CONSULT** Medical Control where indicated **APPROPRIATE** transfer of care

EMT Intervention

AEMT Intervention

PARAMEDIC Intervention

Online Medical Control

# FOREIGN BODY AIRWAY OBSTRUCTION (FBAO) - ADULT

INDICATIONS	SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS	DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coughing</li> <li>• Choking</li> <li>• Inability to speak</li> <li>• Unresponsive</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Witnessed aspiration</li> <li>• Sudden episode of choking</li> <li>• Gagging</li> <li>• Audible stridor</li> <li>• Change in skin color</li> <li>• Decreased LOC</li> <li>• Increased or decreased respiratory rate</li> <li>• Labored breathing</li> <li>• Unproductive cough</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cardiac arrest</li> <li>• Respiratory arrest</li> <li>• Anaphylaxis</li> <li>• Esophageal obstruction</li> </ul>

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## KEY POINTS

- With complete obstruction, positive-pressure ventilation may be successful.
- Needle cricothyrotomy will provide short term oxygenation only (not ventilation) and is used to “buy time” until other interventions can assure appropriate ventilation.
- Cricothyrotomy kits have a larger internal diameter than needle cric and thus will provide some minimal ventilation.
- Needle cricothyrotomy and cricothyrotomy kits are bridge devices to surgical intervention.