AirLink Critical Care Transport

Oral Intubation

Objective:

To provide adequate ventilation, oxygenation, and airway protection.

Indications:

1. Ventilatory failure/ impending ventilator failure.
2. Respiratory failure/ impending respiratory failure.
3. Anticipate deterioration of patient condition during transport.
4. Protect the airway.
5. GCS < 8.

Assessment of Airway:

1. LEMON
    a. L – LOOK
    b. E – EVALUATE 3.3.2
    c. M – MALAMPATI
    d. O – OBSTRUCTION/OBESITY
    e. N – NECK MOBILITY

Procedure:

1. Open airway and proper patient position. C spine precautions if indicated.
2. Pre-oxygenate with 100% oxygen.
3. Apply NC/ETCO2 device at 6 lpm.
4. Assemble and check all equipment needed, i.e., monitors, suction, BVM, glidescope, laryngoscope, alternative airways.
5. RSI per protocol when indicated.
6. Technique:
    a. Inspect oral pharynx for secretions, foreign body, and dentures.
    b. Insert blade into oropharynx.
    c. Locate landmarks i.e. epiglottis, glottis.
    d. Insert appropriate size ETT, inflate cuff, place end tidal device, and assist ventilation with BVM.
    e. Verify ETT placement with 5 point auscultation and ETCO2 monitor w/ capnography, Chest rise and SpO2.
    f. Secure ETT.
    g. Note ETT depth at the teeth or gum line.
    h. Ventilate with 100% O2 and titrate.
    i. Sedation PRN.

j. Consider NG/OG insertion.
k. Consider placing C collar to stabilize pt's head and neck and to decrease chance of extubation.
l. Monitor end tidal CO2, sats, and breath sounds after each transfer of pt.
Revisualize ETT w/ Glidescope if needed

Documentation:

1. VS, SaO2, ETCO2.
2. Breath sounds.
3. ETT placement and size.
4. Method of securing tube.
5. Ventilator S/U and parameters.

References:

1. Emergency Medicine, A comprehensive Study Guide. Sixth Edition. American College of Physicians. Tintinalli er. Al. 2010
2. Manual of Emergency Airway Management. Third Edition, 2008.
3. Murray and Nadal's Textbook of Respiratory medicine. Fifth Edition. Philadelphia PA: Saunder Elsevier; 2010

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