



Supraglottic Airways Update

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1



Overview

- Initial Recommendation
- Current Draft Report
- Discussion

2



Initial Recommendation

- Replace specific reference to Laryngeal Mask Airway (LMA)/intubating LMA and Combitube with “supraglottic airway”:

Tactical Evacuation Care

1b. Casualty with airway obstruction or impending airway obstruction:

- Chin lift or jaw thrust maneuver
- Nasopharyngeal airway
- Allow casualty to assume any position that best protects the airway, to include sitting up.
- Place unconscious casualty in the recovery position.
- If above measures unsuccessful:
 - Supraglottic airway or
 - Endotracheal intubation or
 - Surgical cricothyroidotomy (with lidocaine if conscious).



Current Draft Report

- **Findings:**
 - Patient safety and provider competency/training/experience
 - Logistical and practical considerations
- **Conclusion:** No strong evidence to support the use of one SGA device over another
- **Additional Recommendations:**
 - Remove specific device references
 - Specific SGA device recommendations should be evidence-driven and have demonstrated superiority
 - Services should ensure providers are trained and equipped to field them



Current Draft Report (Continued)

- Absent this evidence, Services should select limited number of devices
- Ongoing evaluation of SGA devices
- Continued research and adequate prehospital data collection
- Equipment inventories, provider training and equipping should eventually be standardized
- Inventory practices should account for rapid, continuous evolution of medical best practices, where feasible

5



DISCUSSION

6