Supraglottic Airways Update

Nancy W. Dickey, MD
DHB President

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Overview

- Initial Recommendation
- Current Draft Report
- Discussion
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:**
  o Patient safety and provider competency/training/experience
  o Logistical and practical considerations

• **Conclusion:** No strong evidence to support the use of one SGA device over another

• **Additional Recommendations:**
  o Remove specific device references
  o Specific SGA device recommendations should be evidence-driven and have demonstrated superiority
  o Services should ensure providers are trained and equipped to field them
• 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
DISCUSSION