



USE OF OROGASTRIC TUBES

PURPOSE

This policy outlines the indications for placement of orogastric tubes.

POLICY

Orogastric tubes may be placed when available by paramedic providers trained in its use according to manufacturer's guidelines, the following procedure, and as approved by the Agency Medical Director. The Agency choosing to carry orogastric tubes must assure providers are trained and that the training is approved by the Agency Medical Director.

INDICATIONS

1. Patient is 12 years of age or greater
2. Patient is orotracheally intubated or a King LTS-D is in place

CONTRAINDICATIONS

1. Caustic ingestion
2. Known esophageal disease (varices, esophageal cancer, etc)

PROCEDURE

1. Size and measure patient for desired orogastric tube.
2. Adequately lubricate with water-based lubricant.
3. Insert into oropharynx and advance to appropriate measured depth.
4. If a King LTS-D is in place, the appropriately sized orogastric tube may be advanced to appropriate measured depth through the decompression port of the King LTS-D. Under no circumstances may the tube be placed around any King airway device.
5. Confirm placement by auscultation following expulsion of a large volume syringe filled with air attached to the orogastric tube.
6. Secure the orogastric tube.
7. Manually provide intermittent suction. Under no circumstances should the orogastric tube be left on continuous suction.
8. Insertion of an orogastric tube should not delay transport.
9. No medications or fluids may be administered via the OG tube without direct, on-line medical control.
10. Once placed, the tube should remain until removed by hospital personnel unless the patient self-extubates prior to hospital arrival.