

Emergency laryngectomy management

Call for airway expert help

Look, listen & feel at the mouth and laryngectomy stoma

A Mapleson C system (e.g. 'Waters circuit') may help assessment if available

Use **waveform capnography** whenever available: exhaled carbon dioxide indicates a patent or partially patent airway

No

Is the patient breathing?

Yes

Call Resuscitation Team
CPR if no pulse / signs of life

Apply high flow oxygen to laryngectomy stoma
If any doubt whether patient has a laryngectomy, apply oxygen to face also*

Assess laryngectomy stoma patency

Most laryngectomy stomas will NOT have a tube in situ

Remove **stoma cover** (if present)
Remove **inner tube** (if present)

Some inner tubes need re-inserting to connect to breathing circuits
Do not remove a tracheoesophageal puncture (TEP) prosthesis

Can you pass a suction catheter?

Yes

The laryngectomy stoma is patent
Perform tracheal suction
Consider partial obstruction
Ventilate via stoma if not breathing
Continue ABCDE assessment

No

Deflate the **cuff** (if present)

Look, listen & feel at the laryngectomy stoma or tube
Use waveform capnography or Mapleson C if available

Is the patient stable or improving?

Yes

Continue ABCDE assessment

No

REMOVE THE TUBE FROM THE LARYNGECTOMY STOMA if present

Look, listen & feel at the laryngectomy stoma. Ensure oxygen is re-applied to stoma
Use waveform capnography or Mapleson C if available

No

Is the patient breathing?

Yes

Call Resuscitation Team
CPR if no pulse / signs of life

Continue ABCDE assessment

Primary emergency oxygenation

Laryngectomy stoma ventilation via either
Paediatric face mask applied to stoma
LMA applied to stoma

Secondary emergency oxygenation

Attempt **intubation of laryngectomy stoma**
Small tracheostomy tube / 6.0 cuffed ETT
Consider Aintree catheter and fiberoptic 'scope / Bougie / Airway exchange catheter

* Laryngectomy patients have an end stoma and **cannot be oxygenated via the mouth or nose**
Applying oxygen to the face and stoma is the default emergency action for all patients with a tracheostomy