

Al Mustaqbal University

College of Health and Medical Techniques

Department of Anesthesia

Practical anaesthesia equipments

Stage Two

**Airway**

By Lectures

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# Airway

## Oropharyngeal & nasopharyngeal airway

### → Oral airway

Uses:

- It prevents obstruction of **the upper air passage** by lifting the tongue and epiglottis away from the posterior pharyngeal wall
- **It prevents biting** and occlusion of the tracheal tube
- **It protects the tongue** during biting and seizure activity

### NOTS...

- The airway is simple and easy to use and is available in all clinical areas.
- The airway is available in a **range of sizes from neonate to adult**.
- It is possible to determine the size that is best for the patient **by positioning the flange at the incisor level and the tip at the mandibular angle**.
- **In adults**, the oral airway is usually inserted **upside down** and then rotated 180 degrees once it has reached the back of the oropharynx.
- **in young children** may result in **trauma to their soft palate** using the same manoeuvre, so **the airway is usually inserted without inverting it in this age group**.

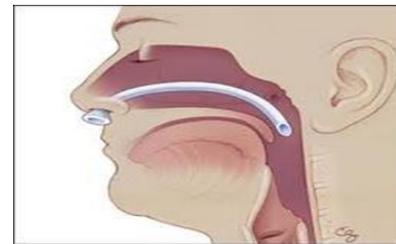


**Disadvantages of oral airway** oral airways are **poorly tolerated by semiconscious** patients and they may induce vomiting.

- **Blind insertion of an oral airway may cause bleeding**, especially from upper airway tumours.
- Incorrect sizing may cause obstruction:
  - **too long**, it may push the epiglottis over the laryngeal inlet
  - **too short**, it will not pass the base of the tongue.

### → **Nasopharyngeal airways**

- The nasopharyngeal airway adjunct is **used as an alternative** to an oropharyngeal airway.
- It is most commonly used in emergency situations, patients who have poor mouth opening.
- nasal airways should be inserted with caution because of the risk of epistaxis.



### **Nasopharyngeal airway insertion**

1. Place the patient's head in the **neutral position**.
2. Identify the correct size NPA by **measuring from the tip of the patient's nose to the earlobe**.
3. **Lubricate** the end of the NPA with a gel.
4. Advance the device carefully along the floor of the nasopharynx, following its natural curvature until the flange rests against the nostril

### **Advantages**

Tolerated in **semi-conscious patients**.

- Suctioning can take place through the nasopharyngeal tube.

