

Question 10 (18 marks) 9 minutes

You are managing a 45 year old male who requires endotracheal intubation and you assess the patient to have a difficult airway.

- a. List four (4) specific circumstances that would lead you to choose awake, fiberoptic guided intubation as your first intubation method of choice. (4 marks)

NB: "specific" not just "trauma, infection"

- **Previously documented difficult airway**
- **Trauma - suspected involvement of larynx/ trachea/ face/ neck**
- **Tumour- supraglottic/ external neck**
- **Infection- supraglottic**
- **Unstable cervical spine injury**
- **Congenital airway deformities**

- b. List four (4) patient factors that would allow you to choose awake, fibre-optic intubation. (4 marks)

- **Airway does not require imminent protection**
- **Low risk of vomiting**
- **Compliant patient**
- **Endotracheal intubation is feasible**

Following your assessment you decide to progress with rapid sequence induction. You are unable to pass an endotracheal tube and progress to place a laryngeal mask airway.

- c. State three (3) advantages of placement of a laryngeal mask airway as compared to ongoing bag, mask ventilation. (3 marks)

- **More secure means of ventilation**
- **More reliable means of ventilation**
- **Does not require operator to hold continuously**
- **Regurgitation less likely**
- **Can intubate through the LMA (even a "non -intubating" LMA)**
- **In obese patients, high airway pressures make BVM difficult**

- d. State three (3) disadvantages of placement of a laryngeal mask airway as compared to an endotracheal tube (3 marks)

- **Less protection against aspiration**
- **Seal may leak with high pressures (> 15 mmHg)**
- **Bronchial secretions may cause laryngeal spasm**

- e. List four (4) clinical findings that would make you suspect malignant hyperthermia. (4 marks)

- **ETCO₂ ↑ (2-3x normal CO₂ production)**
- **BP ↑**
- **HR ↑**
- **Ventricular arrhythmias**
- **Sweating**
- **Muscular rigidity**
- **°C ↑ (late sign)**