SAFE AIRWAY SOCIETY

COVID-19 AIRWAY MANAGEMENT

1. Intensive training
2. Early intervention
3. Meticulous planning
4. Vigilant infection control
5. Efficient airway management
6. Clear communication

USE A 'BUDDY CHECK' FOR CORRECT PPE FITTING

Planning

Intervene early - aim to avoid emergency intubation.
Negative Pressure room or Normal pressure with strict door policy.
Senior clinician involvement. Is Anaesthetist needed?
Early airway assessment documented by senior clinician.

Prepare

Assemble 5-6 person Airway Team (see reverse).
Use COVID-19 Intubation Tray (see reverse).
Ensure Viral Filter and ETCO2 in ventilation circuit.
Share Airway Strategy. Use a dedicated COVID intubation checklist.

PPE

Hand Hygiene (HH).
Donning: HH > Gown > Mask > Eye-protection > Hat > HH > Gloves.
Spotter to perform "Buddy Check" to ensure correct PPE fit.
Airway operator to consider double gloves.

Pre-Ox

45 degree head up position.
Pre-oxygenate with Face Mask using 2 hands for full 5 minutes.
Ensure a square ETCO2 waveform, to be confident of no leaks.
Avoid Apnoeic Oxygenation techniques due to aerosolization risk.

Perform

Use VL; use the screen (indirect view) to maximise operator distance from airway.
Modified RSI technique (1.5mg/kg IBW Roc OR 1.5mg/kg TBW Sux).
No ventilation prior to intubation unless for rescue oxygenation.
Wait 60 seconds for paralysis to take effect - avoid triggering cough.

Post-ETT

Inflate cuff BEFORE initiating ventilation and monitor cuff pressures to minimise leak.
Remove outer gloves (if on), dispose of airway equipment in sealed bag.
Doffing: Gloves > Gown > HH > Hat > Eye Protection > Mask > HH. Use a Spotter.
Debrief and share lessons.

Awake Intubation

Risk of aerosolization. Involve Senior Anaesthetist if this airway technique is indicated.

Connection / Disconnection

Apply the viral filter directly to the ETT. Only disconnect the circuit on the ventilator side of the viral filter.

CICO Rescue

Scalpel-bougie technique to avoid aerosolization.

Collaboration between Safe Airway Society + RNS ASCAR *@SafeAirway + @RnsAscar* *v1.2 March 2020*