

King Airway

NorCal EMS Training Module

Definition

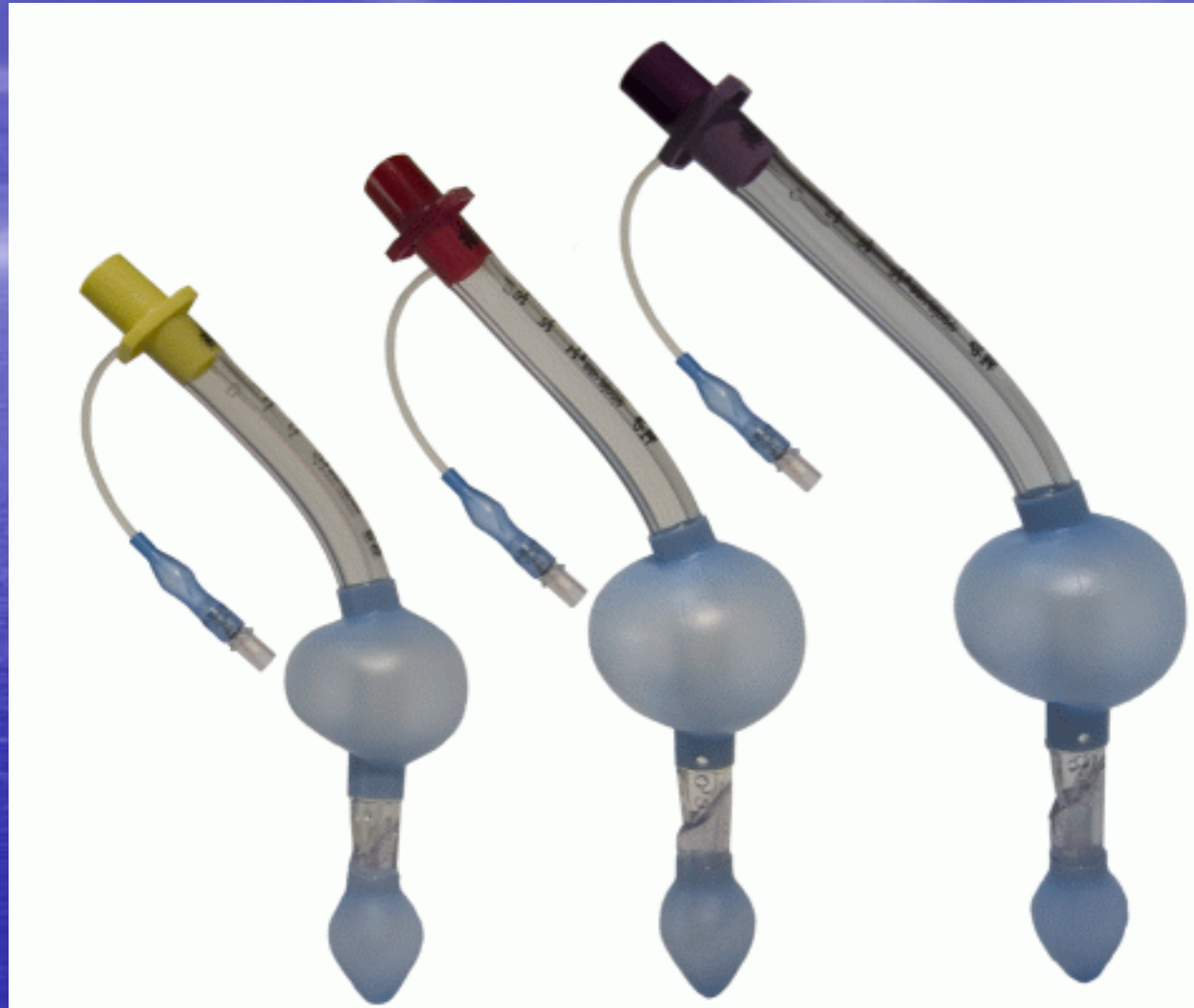
- The King airway is a single use device intended for airway management.
- May be used by EMTs, AEMTs, MICPs or MICNs, in the prehospital setting, who have been trained in the indications, contraindications and application of the device.

Description

- A curved tube with ventilation ports between two inflatable cuffs.
- The distal cuff is designed to seal the esophagus.
- The proximal cuff is designed to seal the oropharynx.
- At the proximal end of the tube is a 15mm connector to be used with standard breathing circuit or resuscitation bag.

Size determined by Pt's height:

- Yellow: 4-5 ft
- Red: 5-6 ft
- Purple: > 6 ft



Indications

- To promote airway management by providing a patent airway in the unconscious, apneic patient.
- The King airway is latex free product.

Contraindications

- Responsive patients with an intact gag reflex.
- Patients with known esophageal disease, i.e. esophageal varices.
- Patients known or suspected to have ingested caustic substances.

Precautions:

- Vomiting and aspiration
- Excess pressure in abdomen

Instructions for use

- Choose appropriate size based on patient's height.
- Test cuffs by inflating to recommended volume of air and deflate cuffs completely before attempting to insert.
- Generously lubricate tube using a water based lube.
- Pre-oxygenate patient with 100% O₂
- Have suction available.

Insertion:

- Position the head in a slightly sniffing position, unless spinal injury is known or suspected, then maintain cervical alignment and keep the head in a neutral position.
- Insert King rotated 45-90 degrees laterally and insert into mouth
- As you gently advance the tube rotate tube to midline.
- Advance tube until base of connector aligns with teeth or gums.

Cuff inflation:

- Inflate cuffs with minimum volume necessary to seal the airway according to tube size.
- Attach to resuscitator bag and ventilate using 100% O₂ source.
- Assure chest rise and fall. Auscultate breath sounds.
- Secure tube, using a commercially approved device, noting depth of tube placement.
- Monitor end tidal CO₂ if available.

Documentation:

- In PCR.
- Note time, size and depth of tube placement.
- Patient response to procedure.
- Skills and medication usage form to NorCal EMS.

Remember:

- When placing a King airway during CPR minimize interruption of CPR and place tube while CPR is in progress.
- If spinal injury is known or suspected, maintain a neutral head alignment and initiate cervical spine precautions concurrently with airway management.

Questions???