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

Is the patient breathing?

- No
  - Call Resuscitation Team
  - CPR if no pulse / signs of life

- Yes
  - 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
  - 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
      - CALL RESUSCITATION TEAM
      - CPR if no pulse / signs of life

- 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

Is the patient stable or improving?

- Yes
  - Continue ABCDE assessment

- No
  - CALL RESUSCITATION TEAM
  - CPR if no pulse / signs of life

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 fibreoptic 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