Airway management has evolved

Using the i-gel® supraglottic airway

Important notes to the recommended insertion technique

Sometimes a feel of ‘give-way’ is felt before the end point resistance is met. This is due to the passage of the bowl of the i-gel through the faucial pillars. It is important to continue to insert the device until a definitive resistance is felt.

Once definitive resistance is met and the teeth are located on the integral bite block, do not repeatedly push i-gel down or apply excessive force during insertion. No more than three attempts in one patient should be attempted.

It is not necessary to insert fingers or thumbs into the patient’s mouth during the process of inserting the device.

Open the i-gel package, and on a flat surface take out the protective cradle containing the device.

Place the i-gel back into the protective cradle in preparation for insertion.

Remove the i-gel from the protective cradle. Grasp the lubricated i-gel firmly along the integral bite block. Position the device so that the i-gel cuff outlet is facing towards the chin of the patient. The patient should be in the ‘sniffing the morning air’ position with head extended and neck flexed. The chin should be gently pressed down before proceeding. Introduce the leading soft tip into the mouth of the patient in a direction towards the hard palate.

Glide the device downwards and backwards along the hard palate with a continuous but gentle push until a definitive resistance is felt.

The tip of the airway should be located into the upper oesophageal opening (a) and the cuff should be located against the laryngeal framework (b). The incisors should be resting on the integral bite-block (c).

Remove the i-gel and transfer it to the palm of the same hand that is holding the protective cradle, supporting the device between the thumb and index finger.

Place a small bolus of a water-based lubricant, such as K-Y Jelly, onto the middle of the smooth surface of the cage pack ready for use.

Place the i-gel into the lid of the cage.

Place the i-gel into the protective cradle ready for lubrication.

Remove the i-gel from the protective cradle. Grasp the lubricated i-gel firmly along the integral bite block. Position the device so that the i-gel cuff outlet is facing towards the chin of the patient. The patient should be in the ‘sniffing the morning air’ position with head extended and neck flexed. The chin should be gently pressed down before proceeding. Introduce the leading soft tip into the mouth of the patient in a direction towards the hard palate.

Glide the device downwards and backwards along the hard palate with a continuous but gentle push until a definitive resistance is felt.

The tip of the airway should be located into the upper oesophageal opening (a) and the cuff should be located against the laryngeal framework (b). The incisors should be resting on the integral bite-block (c).

The i-gel should be taped down from ‘maxilla to maxilla’.

If there is early resistance during insertion a ‘jaw thrust’ (above) or ‘Insertion with Deep Rotation’ (right) is recommended.

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Preparations for use

Adult patient

1. Open the i-gel package, and on a flat surface take out the protective cradle containing the device.
2. Remove the i-gel and transfer it to the palm of the same hand that is holding the protective cradle, supporting the device between the thumb and index finger.
3. Place a small bolus of a water-based lubricant, such as K-Y Jelly, onto the middle of the smooth surface of the protective cradle in preparation for lubrication.
4. Grasp the i-gel with the opposite (free) hand along the integral bite block and lubricate the back, sides and front of the cuff with a thin layer of lubricant.
5. Place the i-gel back into the protective cradle in preparation for insertion.

Step 6

Paediatric patient

1. Open the i-gel package, and on a flat surface take out the cage pack containing the device.
2. Open the cage pack and transfer the i-gel into the lid of the cage.
3. Place a small bolus of a water-based lubricant, such as K-Y Jelly, onto the middle of the smooth surface of the cage pack ready for use.
4. Grasp the i-gel along the integral bite block and lubricate the back, sides and front of the cuff with a thin layer of lubricant.
5. Place the i-gel back into the cage pack in preparation for insertion.

Step 6

Insertion technique

1. Open the i-gel package, and on a flat surface take out the cage pack containing the device.
2. Open the cage pack and transfer the i-gel into the lid of the cage.
3. Place a small bolus of a water-based lubricant, such as K-Y Jelly, onto the middle of the smooth surface of the protective cradle in preparation for lubrication.
4. Grasp the i-gel with the opposite (free) hand along the integral bite block and lubricate the back, sides and front of the cuff with a thin layer of lubricant.
5. Place the i-gel back into the cage pack in preparation for insertion.

Step 6

6. Grasp the i-gel along the integral bite block and lubricate the back, sides and front of the cuff with a thin layer of lubricant.
7. Glide the device downwards and backwards along the hard palate with a continuous but gentle push until a definitive resistance is felt.
8. The tip of the airway should be located into the upper oesophageal opening (a) and the cuff should be located against the laryngeal framework (b). The incisors should be resting on the integral bite-block (c).
9. The i-gel should be taped down from ‘maxilla to maxilla’.
10. If there is early resistance during insertion a ‘jaw thrust’ (above) or ‘Insertion with Deep Rotation’ (right) is recommended.

These instructions do NOT constitute a comprehensive guide to the preparation, insertion and use of the i-gel. The user should first familiarise themselves with the complete user guide before attempting to use the i-gel. Copies are available by contacting Intersurgical or by visiting our website www.i-gel.com.

The i-gel must always be separated from the protective cradle or cage pack prior to insertion. The cradle is not an introducer and must never be inserted into the patient’s mouth. K-Y® Jelly is a registered trademark of Johnson and Johnson Inc.