

Critical Importance of the Laryngeal Mask Airway in Medical Emergencies

Allison Le, Gargi Mukherji

Objectives:

At UTSD, all faculty, residents, and students are required to learn BLS in order to be prepared for an emergency. This consists of basic life support skills, such as effective chest compressions, use of a bag-mask device, and use of an AED. In Clinic, our emergency cart contains an LMA (laryngeal mask airway) that is a life-saving device that can be used to manage an airway in an emergency. Many clinicians, however, may not be aware of the LMA or do not feel comfortable to use an LMA in an emergency situation. This study is designed to evaluate current knowledge about LMAs and teach clinical skills on the use of an LMA. Our goal of this study is to educate and train individuals about the use of LMAs and expand the teachings to other people in the healthcare field.

Experimental Methods:

A pre-survey taken will establish a baseline to understand what is known about the LMA and its use. Using a mannequin, a professional demonstration was conducted using the Supreme LMA and King Tube. Participants were invited to demonstrate their skills in inserting an LMA into the mannequin.

Results:

After the demonstration, a post-survey was conducted to collect data to evaluate the impact of the presentation and to determine if it was valuable and what could be improved. Majority participants found it to be "Very Educational" and an overwhelming amount of participants agreed to the question "Do you think a routine demonstration would be beneficial?"

Conclusion:

Many of the faculty participants verbally commented on the value of the presentation and that they appreciated being able to actively participate in the insertion of the LMA. In the future, we hope to expand this training to more faculty, residents, and students.

This study was IRB exempt and supported by the UTSD Student Research Program.