

Southern Illinois Regional EMS System

II-38 ENDOTRACHEAL TUBE INTRODUCER BOUGIE

Policy:

- To establish a guideline on the use of an endotracheal tube introducer, known most commonly as a Bougie.
- The Bougie is a useful tool to help facilitate a difficult intubation, being a guide over which the ET tube is inserted.
 - Used when a difficult intubation is anticipated or poor/partial view of the glottic opening is confirmed by direct laryngoscopy.

Procedure:

- Follow the preparatory steps listed in the Adult Endotracheal Intubation Protocol.
- Remove Bougie from package and ensure the distal tip is formed with a slight angle (similar to a J shape)
- Use laryngoscope to view the glottic opening.
- Grip the Bougie in the right hand like a pencil with angled tip facing upward.
- Advance the Bougie with the slight J shape up, continuously observing the distal tip.
 - Pass the distal tip of the Bougie past the epiglottis and above the arytenoid cartilages, through the glottic opening.
 - Continue to advance the Bougie past the glottic opening.
 - You may feel “clicks” as the distal end rubs against the anterior tracheal rings.
 - Advance until slight resistance is felt by the narrowing airway, 25-40 cm at teeth.
- Hold the Bougie firmly in place and pass the ET tube over the proximal end.
 - Maintain the placement and avoid movement of the Bougie.
- Advance the ET tube down the Bougie while preventing movement of the Bougie
 - Advance until the ET tube is in proper position, distal cuff 2 mm past the cords.
- Once the ET tube is in proper position, hold it securely while withdrawing the Bougie.
- Follow the steps listed in the Adult Endotracheal Intubation Protocol for verifying placement, securing, and monitoring of the ET tube.

Notes:

- Successful intubation using a Bougie will be enhanced by rotating the ET tube 90° counter clockwise, so the bevel faces posteriorly.
- The Bougie should not be allowed to move during the procedure, especially up or down.
- Reevaluate ET tube placement every time a patient is moved.
- Intubation attempts should not exceed 30 seconds in duration.