

Southern Illinois Regional EMS System

II-39 DRUG ASSISTED INTUBATION

Policy:

- To establish a guideline for using medications to achieve endotracheal intubation of the adult patient with airway compromise that presents with an intact gag reflex.

Indications:

- Glasgow Coma Scale score ≤ 8 due to an acute condition or injury.
- Imminent respiratory failure.
- Imminent tracheal or laryngeal swelling and closure due to trauma or anaphylaxis.
- Ineffective ventilation/oxygenation using a nasopharyngeal or oropharyngeal airway.

Contraindications:

- Absent gag reflex and/or coma.
- Pregnancy (consult Medical Control)
- Hypersensitivity or allergy to the medications.

Procedure:

- Follow the II-17 ADULT ENDOTRACHEAL INTUBATION protocol.
- When drug assisted intubation is indicated:
 - Contact Medical Control.
 - Pre-oxygenate the patient using NRB mask or BVM as appropriate.
 - Prepare all equipment per II-17 ADULT ENDOTRACHEAL INTUBATION protocol.
 - In addition, prepare appropriate medications and additional airway options:
 - Supraglottic airway: CombiTube or King
 - Equipment for needle cricothyrotomy.
 - Administer **Benzocaine spray, one spray x 2, 30 seconds apart**
 - Administer **Midazolam 5 mg IV/IO**
 - Administer **Etomidate 0.5 mg/kg IV/IO, max. dose 40 mg**
 - Allow for response to the medications, if possible.
 - Intubate, confirm tube placement, and secure per II-17 ADULT ENDOTRACHEAL INTUBATION protocol.

Successful intubation:

- Ventilate the patient with high flow O₂ at 8-10 breaths per minute.
- Post-intubation sedation: **Midazolam 2 mg IV/IO every 2 min., max dose 10 mg**
- Reassess the patient's ABCs every 5 min., including ETCO₂, SPO₂, and level of consciousness.

Unsuccessful intubation attempt:

- Ventilate with high flow O₂
- Follow the steps above for another intubation attempt (max. of 2 attempts)
- Failed intubation x 2:
 - Supraglottic airway per device protocol.
- Supraglottic airway failure with inability to adequately ventilate with BVM:
 - Needle cricothyrotomy per II-21 NEEDLE CRICOTHYROTOMY protocol.