

DAS AirBite: Plan B – Supraglottic Airway Device (15-minute teaching session for all airway managers)

Background and content:

Activities:

- Review and discuss the Plan B algorithm
- Discuss techniques for preoxygenation
- Compare and review types of 2nd generation supraglottic airway devices (SAD)
- Explore the role of the Airway Assistant during Plan B
- Discuss the **STOP, THINK AND COMMUNICATE** moment if successful SAD ventilation in Plan B

Equipment required:

- 2nd generation SADs available within your department (e.g. i-gel®, LMA® Supreme™, LMA® Proseal™, Ambu® AuraGain™)
- Airway manikin and AmbuBag

Intended Learning Objectives:

Learners should be able to:

- Describe and discuss the key steps of Plan B in the airway management algorithm.
- Discuss options for maintaining oxygenation and preoxygenation during Plan B.
- Identify and compare types of second-generation SADs including their indications, advantages, and limitations.
- Demonstrate effective teamwork by exploring the role of the Airway Assistant during Plan B.
- Apply the '**STOP, THINK, AND COMMUNICATE**' principle to optimise decision-making and team coordination during airway management.

1. Plan B algorithm review

What's new in Plan B in the 2025 algorithm?

- Use of 2nd generation SAD for up to 3 insertion attempts
- Once effective ventilation and oxygenation established (confirmed with waveform capnography) → **STOP, THINK AND COMMUNICATE**
- Priming: If Plan B is unsuccessful, open the eFONA kit

STOP, THINK AND COMMUNICATE

Consider:

- Waking patient up
- Intubating trachea via the SAD
- Proceeding without intubation
- FONA (tracheostomy or cricothyroidotomy)

Use case examples to discuss situations that would lead to each decision



3. 2nd Generation SAD workshop

Faculty demonstration of:

- Demonstrate insertion of 2nd generation SADs available within your department, considering:
- Indications for each SAD – use case examples
- Advantages and disadvantages

Discussion:

If you are unable to insert or ventilate via a 2nd generation SAD, how could you optimise for success?

- Ensure adequate neuromuscular blockade
- Consider changing size
- Consider changing to alternative SAD

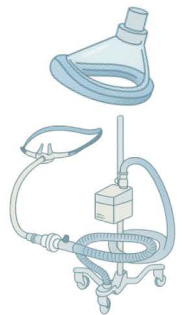
2. Peroxygenation discussion

What is peroxygenation?

Peroxygenation is the process of continuous oxygen delivery from before induction of anaesthesia (pre-oxygenation), during apnoea (apnoeic oxygenation), and throughout attempts at airway management (e.g. laryngoscopy) until the airway is secured.

How can it be performed?

- Pw can it be performed?
- Positive pressure pre-oxygenation in head-up position (NIV, FMV with CPAP or High Flow Nasal Oxygen)
- FMV / HFNO between SAD insertion attempts
- In the anatomically or physiologically difficult airway, consider HFNO



4. Role of the Airway Assistant

What is the role of the Airway Assistant in Plan B?

Airway Assistant

- Monitor attempts and elapsed time
- Prompt and provide equipment
- Ensure that eFONA kit immediately available

Why is this so important?

- Mitigates task fixation and cognitive overload - prevent the intubator from losing situational awareness or persisting with unsuccessful actions.
- Supports shared mental model and team coordination - ensuring smooth transitions along DAS algorithm with minimal delay or confusion.

Follow up activities:

1. Review the DAS infographic for intubation through SAD
2. Signpost to DAS website for full guideline, algorithms and educational videos
3. Consider reviewing other DAS educational materials including AirDrills for low fidelity simulation, and AirSim scenarios for high fidelity simulation.

Feedback here:

