Scans

- Positioning the Patient for Basic Life Support
- Inserting an Oropharyngeal Airway
- Inserting a Nasopharyngeal Airway
- Suctioning Techniques
Positioning the Patient for Basic Life Support
(1) Straighten the legs and position the closer arm above the patient’s head.
(2) Grasp under the distant armpit.
(3) Cradle the head and neck, and move the patient as a unit onto his side.
(4) Move the patient onto his back and reposition the extended arm.
Inserting an Oropharyngeal Airway
(1) Ensure the oropharyngeal airway is the correct size by checking to make sure it either extends from the center of the mouth to the angle of the jaw or . . .
(2) Measure from the corner of the patient’s mouth to the tip of the earlobe.
(3) Use the crossed-fingers technique to open the patient’s mouth.
(4) Insert the airway with the tip pointing to the roof of the patient’s mouth.
(5) Rotate it 180 degrees into position.
(5) When the airway is properly positioned, the flange rests against the patient’s mouth.
Inserting a Nasopharyngeal Airway
(1) Measure the nasopharyngeal airway from the patient’s nostril to the tip of the earlobe or to the angle of the jaw.
(2) Apply a water-based lubricant before insertion.
(3) Gently push the tip of the nose upward, and insert the airway with the beveled side toward the base of the nostril or toward the septum (wall that separates the nostrils). Insert the airway, advancing it until the flange rests against the nostril.
(4) Never force a nasopharyngeal airway. If you experience difficulty advancing the airway, pull the tube out and try the other nostril.
Suctioning Techniques
(1) Turn the unit on, attach a catheter, and test for suction at the beginning of your shift.
(2) Position yourself at the patient’s head and turn the patient’s head or entire body to the side.
(3) Open and clear the patient’s mouth.
(4) Place the convex side of the rigid tip against the roof of the mouth. Insert just to the base of the tongue.
(5) Apply suction only after the rigid tip is in place. Do not lose sight of the tip while suctioning. Suction while withdrawing the tip.
(5) If you are using a flexible catheter, measure it from the patient’s earlobe to the corner of the mouth or from the center of the mouth to the angle of the jaw.