

Airway management - from technology to practice

Airway management is the cornerstone of anesthesia, critical care and emergency medicine and include a wide range of technics in different hospital and prehospital scenarios. Since proper oxygenation is utmost important in acute care, the airway management includes not only advanced airway support, but basic manual techniques and airway aids as well. The history of endotracheal intubation as the most frequently used definitive airway management technique started with the era of direct laryngoscopy more than three hundred years ago. The focus of interest of physicians is recently guided toward new techniques and devices to facilitate safer, easier and more successful approach to airway management even in challenging situations. Nowadays, numerous airway management devices including direct- and video-laryngoscopes, fiber optic and alternative airway devices are available on the market and many are already incorporated in international guidelines. However, in some cases the exact role and benefit of these devices are scientifically not yet clarified. The pandemic of COVID-19 highlighted the importance of airway management and gave an additional boost to airway management innovations, which resulted in many interesting concepts from 3D printing technology to improvised devices. The aim of this special issue of Signa Vitae is to give opportunity for clinicians, researchers and scientists from all the fields of medicine or research to present their latest scientific work on airway management. Manuscripts regarding clinical, prehospital and experimental studies are equally welcome for submission as well as systematic reviews and metaanalysis.



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