

Nasopharyngeal Airways

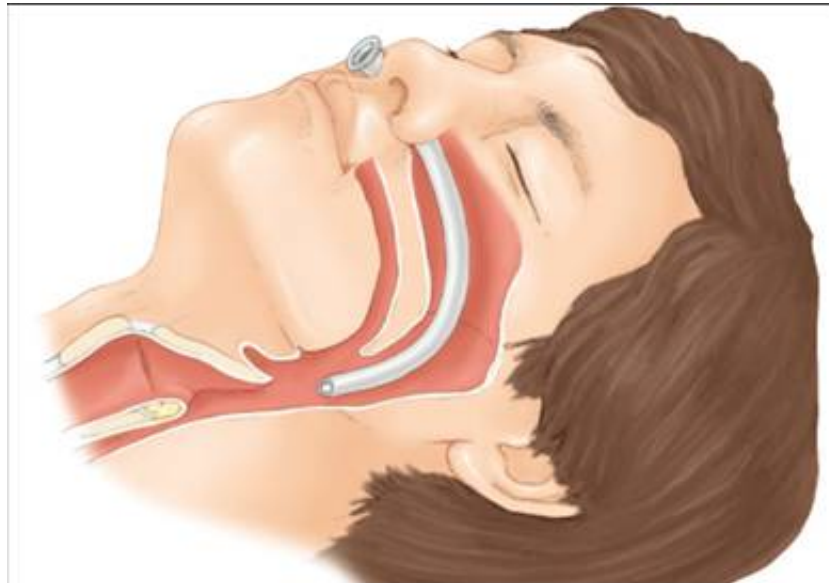


Nasopharyngeal Airway

- A type of airway adjunct
- Hollow tube inserted into the nasal passageway to secure an open airway.
- When a patient has a reduced conscious level, the muscles in the jaw relax allowing the tongue to fall back and obstruct the airway.

How to size an NP airway

- Average height females require a size 6 NPA and average height males a size 7 NPA (Portex sizing)



Benefits

- Less likely to induce gagging than an oropharyngeal airway
- Can be used in a semi-conscious or conscious patient when the airway is at risk of compromise
- It can be utilised in patients with poor mouth opening e.g. clenched jaw, trismus or maxillofacial injuries.

How to Insert

- Check the nostril for patency
- Lubricate the airway using water-soluble jelly
- Insert the airway into the nostril, bevelled end first
- Pass the airway vertically along the floor of the nose
- If there is resistance remove the airway and try the other nostril
- The device is inserted until the flared end rests against the nostril
- Reassess the airway and check for patency and adequacy of ventilation
- Maintain airway manoeuvres and monitor ventilation.

Contraindications

- **DO NOT USE** in cases of suspected or potential basal skull fracture
- Use with caution in those patients with coagulopathy