

CLINICAL "SNIPPETS"

Airway techniques and ventilation strategies

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Overview: Review the advantages and disadvantages of various methods of airway management during cardiopulmonary resuscitation. The role of ventilation during out-of-hospital cardiopulmonary resuscitation is also discussed.

Conclusions: Supraglottic airway devices are a logical alternative to tracheal intubation when cardiopulmonary resuscitation is undertaken by individuals who are not highly skilled and experienced intubators. By teaching laypeople compression-only cardiopulmonary resuscitation, it is hypothesized that rates of bystander cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and therefore survival after out-of-hospital cardiac arrest, will increase.