

Supraglottic airway (SGA)

Also known as a laryngeal mask

Objective

- To safely secure and maintain control of the airway in a newborn with an anticipated or unexpected difficult airway, or when the operator does not have skills in newborn intubation.

Indications

- Face mask ventilation is unsuccessful: Congenital anomalies, large mask leak/no chest rise
- Endotracheal intubation is unsuccessful: Consider SGA after 2 intubation attempts
- The need to secure airway by personnel without skills in neonatal intubation (medical/nursing/midwifery, if credentialed to use a supraglottic airway)
- Infants ≥ 34 w, >1500 g (weight based on recent published evidence, i-gel® states ≥ 2 Kg)
 - SGA has not been tested for safety and efficacy of endotracheal adrenaline administration

Supraglottic airway (SGA)

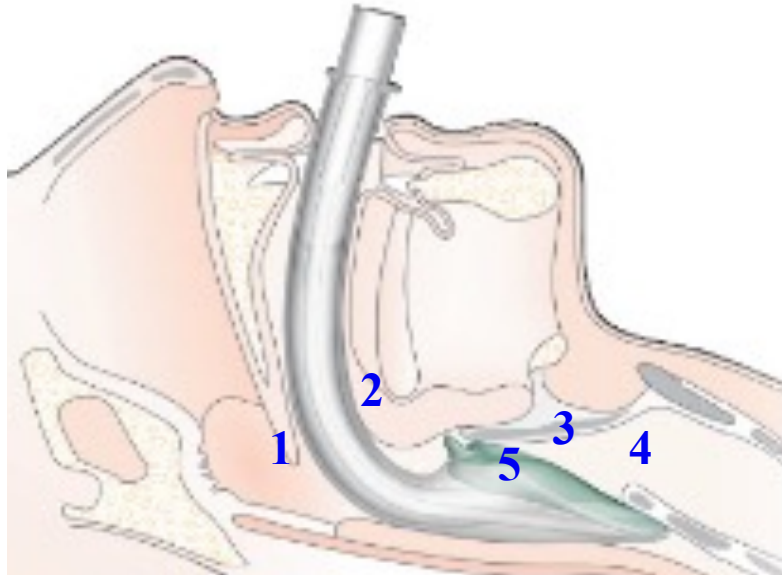
Equipment

- Supraglottic airway size 1
- Lubricant: baby's own saliva (if insufficient use branded lubricant)
- Suction apparatus and suction catheters (8 & 10 Fg)
- Stethoscope (preferably neonatal size)
- Colorimetric CO₂ detector (Pedi-Cap®)
- Tape to secure SGA
- T-piece/SIB with appropriately sized face-mask
- Nasogastric tube size 8 Fg
- (5 mL syringe for a cuffed SGA)

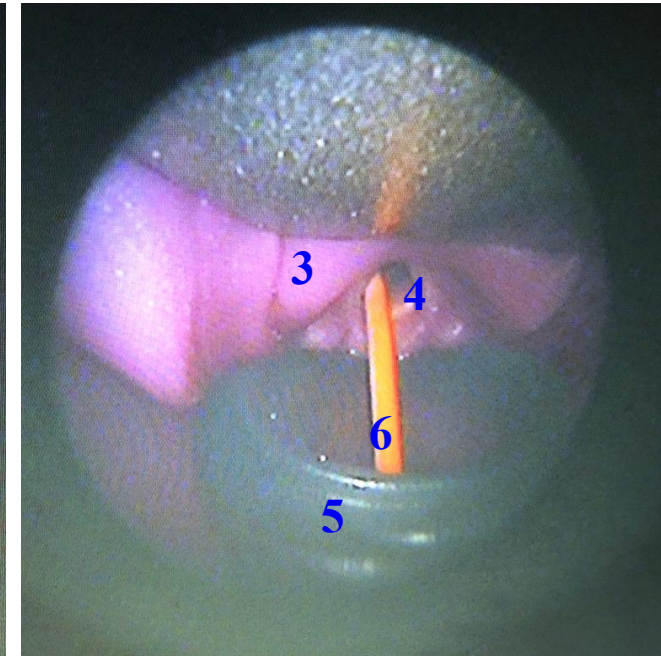
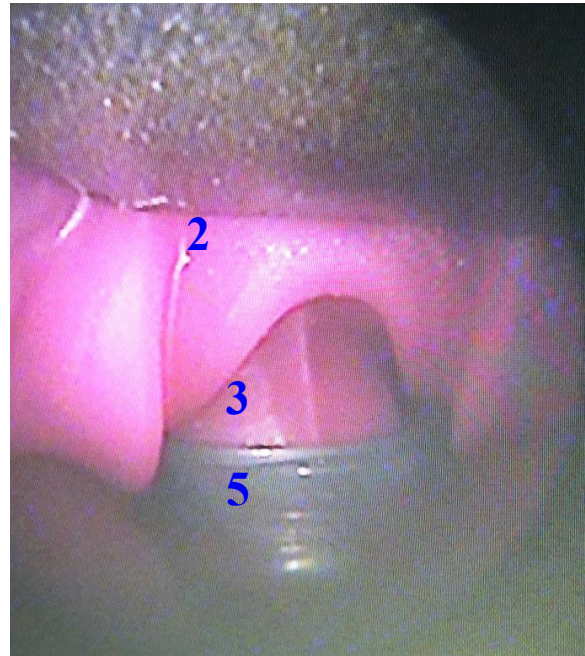


Supraglottic airway (SGA)

Anatomical references



Source: Intersurgical i-gel flyer



Source: M Thio, PIPER

SGA anatomical points: **1** soft palate, **2** posterior part of the tongue, **3** epiglottis, **4** vocal cords, **5** SGA rim
(**6** bougie inserted through SGA into the vocal cords for anatomical reference)

Supraglottic airway (SGA)

Procedure

- Hold the supraglottic airway like a pen
- Slide the back of it against the hard palate and into the pharynx until resistance is felt
- The tongue may need to be depressed to facilitate passage of the supraglottic airway
- If cuffed SGA: check cuff first, inflate it at the end (~4 mL of air)

Complications

- Inadequate alveolar ventilation (set PIP/PEEP may not be achieved due to leak)
- Gastric distension
- ? Vasovagal reaction

