

Vermont EMS District 3

Protocol: Use of the Esophageal Tracheal Combitube®

Provider Level: EMT-Intermediate and above

Effective date: 5/13/04 **Replaces:** Esophageal Airway Device

Eligibility

Vermont certified EMT-Intermediates who have completed a state EMS approved Combitube® course are authorized to use the Combitube® in the manner described in this protocol and with the approval of the District #3 medical. EMT-I's who received Combitube® training prior to the inclusion of the Combitube SA® shall complete an orientation program approved by District #3 medical direction prior to utilizing the Combitube SA®.

Indications

Use of a Combitube® in District 3 is only indicated for an apnic patient who is over 5 feet tall. Use of the Combitube SA® is only indicated for an apnic patient between 4 feet and 5 ½ feet tall (inclusive).

Contraindications

1. Patient is responsive
2. Patient has a gag reflex or cough
3. Patient has ingested a corrosive substance
4. Patient has known esophageal disease
5. Patient is under 5 feet tall for the Combitube®
6. Patient is under 4 feet tall or over 5 ½ feet tall for the Combitube SA®

Precautions

Pre-oxygenate the patient before inserting the Combitube®.

Do not force the Combitube® during its insertion.

Reassess tube position frequently, especially after the patient is moved or has a physical exam change.

Resolve any doubt of tube position quickly. If there is ANY concern about tube position, deflate the cuffs, remove the tube, and resume ventilation with other airway measures.

Communication and Documentation

The EMT-I who inserted the Combitube® is responsible for notifying the emergency department of its use prior to patient presentation in the ED. The same EMT-I must document use of the device on the patient care report.

Compatibility with Vermont EMS Protocols

"Combitube®" should be substituted for "esophageal airway device" in the Vermont EMS protocols by EMT-Intermediates trained and authorized as described above.