

SAQ 6

A 7 yr. old girl presents with acute respiratory distress. She is intubated in your department by a senior registrar as he has oxygen saturations of 84% on 15L oxygen via NRB mask and is tiring. You are called to the resuscitation room after intubation as her HR falls from 142 to 70 and oxygen saturations drop from 90% to 75% on 100% oxygen. She is attached to the Oxylog 3000 ventilator. The registrar reports a first pass intubation taking 40 seconds to complete.

1. List your top 6 differential diagnosis for this deterioration (6 marks)

Intubation issues: Anaphylaxis to induction agent, Tube misplacement (oesophageal/bronchial), Tube blocked

Ventilation issues: Ventilator settings inadequate/failure technical with e.g. gas trapping, pneumothorax

Worsening of underlying pathology

2. Outline your approach to the airway in the order that you would perform (4 marks)

Disconnect from ventilator and bag mask for feel with 100% oxygen

Check ETT placement (ETCO₂, auscultation)

Suction ETT

Reintubate if suspected failed intubation