

## SAQ 10

You take a group of first year ED Registrars to the Resus room in their first week of term. You want to take them through the following topics. For each, provide a succinct answer.

1. What patient factors may make rapid sequence intubation difficult or impossible? (3 marks)

Upper airway obstruction  
Distorted facial or neck anatomy (congenital or acquired)  
Poor cervical mobility (acute or chronic)

2. What alternatives should be considered in these cases? (2 marks)

Awake fibre-optic intubation under local anaesthetic  
Awake surgical airway (cricothyroidotomy or tracheostomy)

3. List the steps of preparation for rapid sequence induction (5 marks)

Staff – assemble skilled team, call for expert help if required  
(anaesthetics/ENT)

Equipment – appropriate size laryngoscope, ETT, syringe, tape, suction,  
oxygen, airway adjuncts and rescue plan for can't intubate/can't ventilate,

Drugs – induction and paralysis agents, pressor, IV fluids with multiple, secure  
access.

Patient – assess airway and C-spine, fasting status, allergies, medications;  
pre-oxygenate, optimise position

Monitoring – continuous ECG monitoring, pulse oximetry, BP monitoring and  
end-tidal CO<sub>2</sub> monitor