Intubation Guidelines for Patients with Known or Suspected COVID-19 Disease

Please review the material and use appropriate isolation precautions. Plan ahead as it takes time to apply all barrier precautions.

1. **For emergency surgery:** Communicate with Anesthesia Workroom so OR can be prepared and unnecessary equipment can be removed.

2. **Prior to intubation:** Review and practice donning and doffing the appropriate respiratory protection, gloves, face shield, and clothing. Pay close attention to avoid self-contamination.

3. **For emergency surgery:** If possible, intubate patient in ICU, transport with ventilator, and use ICU ventilator in OR.

4. **Before and after all procedures:** Practice appropriate hand hygiene.

5. **Clothing:** Wear gown, gloves, and CAPR or fit-tested N95 respirator + face protector as a shield.

6. **Staffing:** Limit the number of providers in the room where the patient is to be intubated. Anesthesia clin tech is to remain outside room if intubation is done in the OR.

7. **Check filter:** Ensure bacterial/viral high efficiency hydrophobic filter is placed between facemask and breathing circuit or between facemask and resuscitation bag.

8. **Monitoring:** Check standards, IV access, instruments, drugs, ventilator, and suction. If patient is on an ICU ventilator, consider TIVA.

9. **Considerations:** Avoid mask ventilation, SGA device, and awake fiberoptic intubation unless specifically indicated. Consider using a video laryngoscope.

10. **Plan for rapid sequence induction (RSI):** RSI may need to be modified if patient has very high alveolar-arterial gradient and is unable to tolerate 30 s of apnea, or has a contraindication to succinylcholine. If manual ventilation is anticipated, small tidal volumes should be applied.

11. **Oxygenation:** 5 minutes of preoxygenation with oxygen 100% and RSI to avoid manual ventilation of patient’s lungs and potential aerosolization of virus from airways.

12. **Intubate, ventilate:** Intubate, confirm tracheal tube position, institute mechanical ventilation, and stabilize patient.

13. **Clean equipment:** All airway equipment must be decontaminated and disinfected according to appropriate hospital policies.

14. **Remove protective equipment:** Avoid touching hair or face before washing hands.

15. **Before and after all procedures:** Practice appropriate hand hygiene.

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