Obstruction of the airway (secondary to secretions, blood, or any other substance) in a patient who cannot maintain or keep the airway clear.

Procedure:

a. Ensure the suction unit is operable and rigid suction tip is in place.

b. Preoxygenate the patient.

c. Explain the procedure to the patient if they are coherent.

d. Examine the oropharynx and remove any potential foreign bodies or material that may possibly occlude the airway during the procedure.

e. Remove any oxygenation devices.

f. Insert the distal end of the suction catheter into the back of the mouth with suction applied (you should still be able to visualize the end of the suction catheter.)

g. Occlude the port of the suction catheter and in a sweeping motion slowly remove any vomitus, blood, or other secretions. (No longer than 15 sec)

h. The patient may assist with this procedure if they are conscious.

i. Clear suction catheter with water.

j. Reattach ventilation device and oxygenate patient.

k. Record the time and results on the PCR.
ORAL SUCTION

Escambia County, Florida - ALS/BLS Medical Protocol

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