

Syllabus	AM_IK_01-14
Topic	Adverse airway events

The National Audit Project 4 (NAP4) identified aspiration as the leading cause of airway related mortality

a)

List 4 risk factors for aspiration during anaesthesia (4 marks)

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)

b)

List 4 precautions you could take to reduce the risk of aspiration during anaesthesia (4 marks)

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)

c)

List 4 clinician actions identified by National Audit Project 4 (NAP4) as being associated with major complications of airway management (4 marks)

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)

d)

List 4 clinical themes associated with NAP4 as being associated with major complications of airway management (not including clinician actions) (4 marks)

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)

e)

List 4 actions you would initially take when you are concerned a tracheostomy may be displaced (4 marks)

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)

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	Answer	Mark	Guidance
a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full stomach • Emergency surgery • Inadequate fasting time • GI obstruction • Delayed GI emptying • Diabetes mellitus • CKD • Recent trauma • Opioids • Raised ICP • Previous GI surgery • Pregnancy • Hiatus hernia • Recurrent regurgitation • Dyspepsia • Previous upper GI surgery • Morbid obesity • Lithotomy or head down position • Laparoscopy • Cholecystectomy • Light anaesthesia • Supraglottic airway devices • Positive pressure ventilation • Length of surgery (>2 hours) • Difficult airway 	1 mark for each (Max. 4 marks)	
b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preoperative fasting • Nasogastric aspiration • Prokinetic premedication • Regional anaesthesia • Antacids • H2 histamine receptor antagonists • Proton pump inhibitors • Tracheal intubation • Second generation SADs • Cricoid pressure • RSI • Positioning • Extubation after return of airway reflexes 	1 mark for each (Max. 4 marks)	

c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor airway assessment • Poor planning for difficult airway • Non use of awake fiberoptic intubation • Repeated attempts at intubation • Inappropriate/overuse of SADs • Use of cannula cricothyroidotomy • Failure to use capnography • Failure to correctly interpret capnography 	1 mark for each (Max. 4 marks)	
d)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head and neck surgery • Paediatric anaesthesia • Obstetric anaesthesia • Obesity • ICU • ED • RSI • Displaced tracheostomies • Emergence from anaesthesia • Aspiration 	1 mark for each (Max. 4 marks)	
e)	<p>Call for help 100% oxygen Attach/assess CO2 monitoring Attach Water's circuit Squeeze Water's circuit Pass suction catheter Pass fiberoptic scope</p>	1 mark for each (Max. 4 marks)	

References

1) Robinson M, Davidson A. Aspiration under anaesthesia: risk assessment and decision-making. CEACCP (2014) 14(4)171-175

<https://academic.oup.com/bjaed/article/14/4/171/293792>

2) Report and findings of the 4th National Audit Project of The Royal College of Anaesthetists (NAP-4)

<https://www.nationalauditprojects.org.uk/downloads/Executive%20Summary.pdf>