Airway Assessment

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Non-Intubated
Non-Intubated

- **Physical Characteristic Evaluation**
  - Recessed jaw
  - Protruding jaw
  - Deviated trachea
  - Large tongue
  - Short, thick neck
  - Protruding teeth
  - High, arched palate
Non-Intubated

• Verbally ask them to open their mouth if responsive or pry it open if able
• Temporomandibular Joint exam
  – Normal distance between the upper and lower incisors is 4-6 cm (approx. 2 inches)
  – Reduced ability to open the mouth indicates reduced mobility of the joint and impaired access to the patient’s airway
• Oral Cavity Inspection
  – Identify loose, chipped or capped teeth, and dental anomalies such as dentures
  – Identify tumors or other obstruction of airflow
Intubated
Intubated

• **ETT Physical Characteristics Evaluation**
  
  – ETT size
  
  – Tube depth (tube size x 3 = approx depth)
    - This rule does not apply to short or long necks
  
  – Tube secured with
    - Tape, commercial tube holder, etc.
  
  – Contents of ETT
    - Mist, secretions, chunks
Intubated

• **Questions to be asked**
  
  – Medications and dosages if given?
  
  – Difficulty or ease in obtaining intubation?
    
    • You could lose this tube and info might be good to know
  
  – Any history or possibility of aspiration during procedure?
    
    • Accepting MD’s would probably like to know this
Intubated

• **Questions to be asked**
  – Any episodes of desaturation during procedure and how fast and long?
    • Accepting MD’s would probably like to know this and possibly treating for anoxic brain injury.
  – Has the tube been repositioned?