

INFOGRAPHIC

Seven questions in COVID-19 airway management: 5W2H



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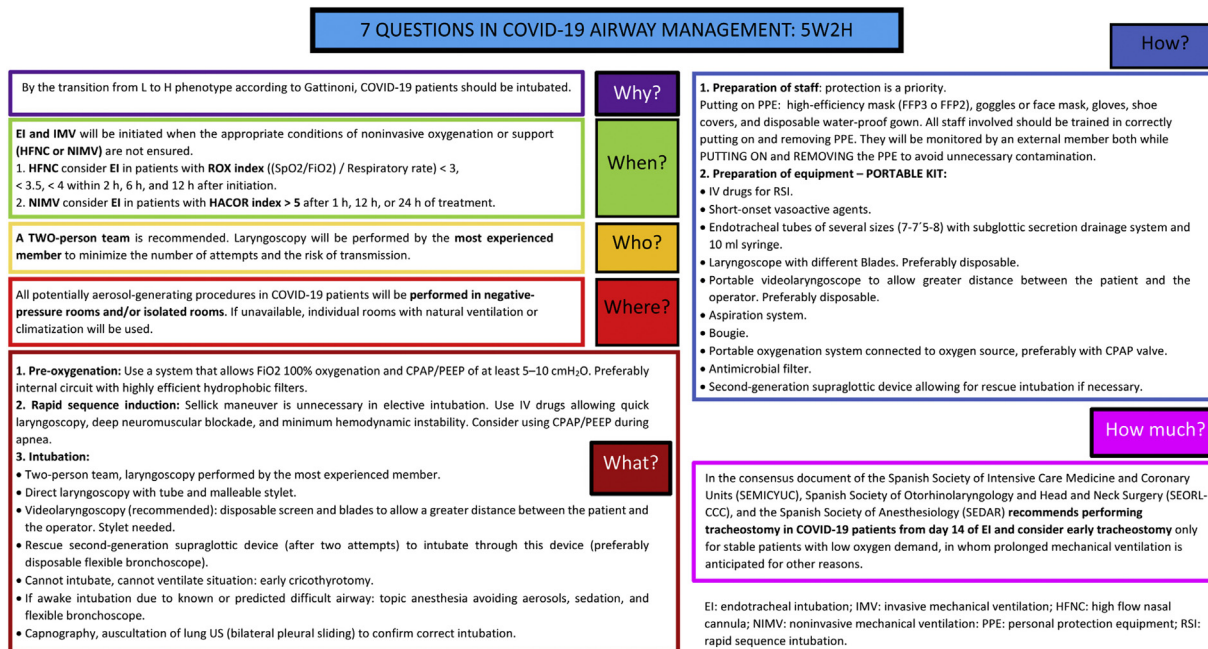
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In December 2019 a new virus, a novel type of coronavirus, was reported in Wuhan, Hubei province, China, causing Severe Acute Respiratory Failure. This SARS-CoV-2 virus was described by the World Health Organization as COVID-19 for referring to the pathology it caused.¹

In August 2020, this virus is a global pandemic that affects more than 100 countries worldwide, and Spanish healthcare workers were among the most involved and infected worldwide. The numbers in our country are overwhelming: as a November 2020, over 440,000 confirmed cases, over 29,000 casualties, and over 55,000 infected healthcare professionals. Healthcare staff is more than 20% of the total of the country, being in other countries like Italy 10%, and in China or USA approximately 3-4%, according to the European Center for Disease Control and Prevention.²

Airway maneuvers have proven to be one of the phases of greatest contagion exposure for healthcare personnel (intubation, aspiration of secretions, extubation and tracheostomy). Therefore, we believe it is fundamental to standardize the care given to these patients in order to reduce mortality and to reduce the number of infected healthcare workers.³

For COVID-19 airway management, we proposed to ask 7 basic questions in airway management (see Figure), 5W2H, trying to solve this problem. Why (1), When (2), Who (3), Where (4), What (5), How (1) and How much (2).

Conflicts of interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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