

CODE: A5

Question: Airway Type: Urgent Author: Dr. H. Yang

**Opening Scenario:**

36 year old male, 95 kg, 50% upper body burn from gas tank explosion, requires ETT change. Nasal ETT 7.0 was inserted 3 days ago and now leaking.

**Major points of additional information to be provided to the candidate, e.g., hx, px, labs, x-ray, consults:**

Hx - Previously well. Trying to fix gas tank when it exploded  
 - Initially singed nose hair but no upper or lower airway burn  
 - On IPPV, with regular pancuronium administered

Px - leaking around tube  
 - Burn dressing over face & upper body

Lab - pO<sub>2</sub>, 60 SpO<sub>2</sub> 90  
 pCO<sub>2</sub> 50

**Major decision points (major decision points or options which must be recognized by the candidate)**

1. A/W swelling & distortion
2. Repertoire of options - Direct Laryngoscopy ± Tube Exchanger
3. Some recognition of burn management

**Any follow-up information required to lead to the end of the question**

- Unable to see cords under direct laryngoscopy - packing around O.T.T. does not resolve problem of leak.
- ETT with FOB or tube exchanges - catches at vocal cords

**Critical features to be included i.e. the *must* have to pass the question or to be considered *completely* unacceptable**

- Trach must not be first option
- Demonstrate some repertoire of A/W management

Ref: RCEXAMS2.NOV.94  
 USED  
 Last Revision: 95/10

Issues

1. A/W

2. Burns