

# ESCHMANN

## OVERVIEW:

The Eschmann catheter is a device designed to facilitate intubation when traditional techniques may not succeed. This skill is authorized for Paramedic providers. Every provider should be prepared to operate as the primary provider's assistant.

## INDICATIONS:

- ❑ Difficult intubation
  - Anticipated difficult intubation
  - Spinally immobilized
  - Obese
  - Narrow jaw
  - Short neck
  - Large tongue

## CONTRAINDICATIONS:

- ❑ Patients requiring ET tube size below 6.5mm. ET tubes smaller than 6.5mm will not pass over the Eschmann.
- ❑ Presence of only one trained provider. This skill requires two trained providers.

## PROCEDURE:

- ❑ Prepare to intubate as with standard laryngoscopic endotracheal intubation
- ❑ Insert laryngoscope and visualize cords utilizing standard technique and external laryngeal manipulation (BURP).
- ❑ If you have a grade 1 view pass an ET tube through the cords and verify intubation
- ❑ If you have a grade 2 or 3 view hold the Eschmann with the "hockey stick" end oriented anterior and pass it through the cords or anterior to any visible glottic structure.
- ❑ Tracheal placement of the Eschmann is indicated by tactile feedback as the tip "clicks" passed each tracheal ring.
- ❑ Hold the Eschmann in place while continuing to visualize as much glottic structure as possible. The laryngoscopes grip on the Eschmann should be very near the patient's teeth.
- ❑ Direct the second provider to thread the ET tube on to the back end of the Eschmann. The ET tube should be oriented with the Murphys eye toward the patient.
- ❑ Once the ET tube is fully threaded the second provider should take control of the back end of the Eschmann and notify the laryngoscopist to proceed.
- ❑ The laryngoscopist should then pass the ET tube down the Eschmann until it is appropriately located in the trachea.
  - If the ET tube resists passing the glottic opening, roll the tube between your fingers while applying gentle forward pressure.
- ❑ Discontinue laryngoscopy and remove the Eschmann
- ❑ Confirm ET tube placement and secure as with standard ET intubation.

PARAMEDIC

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**CONSIDERATIONS:** None