

VC EMS TRAINING BULLETIN

Bulletin 32
Date: July 10, 2015

IMPROVING QUALITY...CONTINUOUSLY



*Ventura County
Emergency Medical Services Agency*



air-Q Placement Procedure Update



The air-Q creates the best seal when it is in the correct position—neither too deep nor too shallow. Please use the follow techniques:

1. Insertion: Insert **GENTLY**. Stop when first resistance is felt. Inserting too deeply will worsen the seal.
2. After insertion: Flex the head forward to return to neutral position.
3. Securing: Be sure the strap does not pull the air-Q farther forward.

When the air-Q has a large air leak, can't be inserted, or has no waveform on capnography:

1. In and Out Technique: Pull the air-Q back until the bowl is visible under the tongue. Gently wiggle and advance *just* until a “soft stop” is reached (please refer to [Dr. Cook's video](#)—click to open).
2. Finger Flick Technique: If large air leak continues, the problem may be that the air-Q tip is still bent backward. With your right hand, pull the air-Q back until the bottom of the bowl is at the level of the teeth. Insert your left index finger, with the back of the finger against the back of the air-Q bowl, to be sure the bowl is straight.

Dr. Cook's training video may be seen here: <https://youtu.be/3F5QkwN9oSY>

For questions, please call Katy Hadduck at the Ventura County EMS Agency.

VENTURA COUNTY EMS AGENCY
Phone: 805-981-5301
Web Page: www.vchca.org/ems